

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Meet an Iowa Birder—Chris Edwards

William Scheible

Anne Edwards is a mighty fine baker of cookies, and she always provides her husband Chris with a generous assortment of goodies whenever he ventures afield for a day of birding. Reason enough right there to explain why I enjoy exploring with Chris. That, and the fact that he's one of Iowa's most skilled birders and a patient teacher of his craft.

Chris Edwards was ushered into this world shortly after the Beatles landed in the United States. He was born in Cedar Rapids and spent his first ten years in rural Johnson County near the town of Oxford, where his father owned and operated the local hardware store. Much younger than his three siblings, by the age of eight he was the only child in the family. He delighted in exploring the fields and woods and a small creek near the Edwards home.

An inquisitive youngster, Chris was fascinated by all living things, and these years near Oxford formed the foundation for Chris, the lifelong naturalist.

Near Stone City in Jones County, Chris' maternal grandparents, Lester and Gail Beam, owned a cabin on heavily timbered land with a latticework of hills and ravines. His grandparents were active members of Cedar Rapids Audubon. Lester imparted knowledge and enthusiasm to young Chris, and taught him about the local flora and fauna. This land still belongs to the family and is a favored spot for retreats and picnics, and it has been designated an Iowa Important Bird Area.

For four years the Edwards' lived near Jefferson in Greene County and then moved across the state to Keokuk. Chris attended Keokuk High School, and it was here that he took a liking to one Anne Grogan, who before long would become his wife. With a vision that now seems remarkably prescient, Chris graduated from the University of Iowa in 1986 with a major in accounting and a minor in computer sciences. Who among us knew anything about computers way back then? COBOL, anyone?

Anne was at U of I, too, enrolled in Radiologic Technologist school, a career in which she has excelled (I know. I work with her.). When Anne and Chris earned their degrees and became gainfully employed, the Edwards family doubled in size. Mary and Daniel both attend the University of Iowa and are members of the Hawkeye Marching Band. Needless



Chris Edwards

to say, Saturday afternoons in the fall and an occasional New Years Day find the Edwards clan bedecked in Black and Gold.

As Deputy County Auditor for Johnson County, Chris has wide-ranging responsibilities, from elections to overseeing payroll and accounting. Until recently, Anne and Chris have made North Liberty their home, but two years ago they moved to a lovely home in rural Solon. Surrounded by trees and overlooking a small pond, it's a perfect location for someone with a naturalist's bent.

Although Chris was exposed early in childhood to the wonders of the outdoors, he, like many of us, put these pursuits on hold during those high school and college years. But in 1991, there came an epiphany of sorts. Living in North Liberty afforded Chris easy access to Lake Macbride and its environs. While hiking at Macbride Nature-Recreation Area one day, he enjoyed a close encounter with a male Scarlet Tanager. Hoisting his father's ponderous aviation binoculars, Chris was amazed by the detail suddenly before him. Chris was hooked. He acquired his first field guide, *National Geographic*, and began the serious study of birds. Later that year he participated for the first time in the annual Iowa City Bird Club hawk watch at Sugar Bottom. Observing five life birds in short order (Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Broad-winged Hawks, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon) firmly planted Chris' feet in birder's soil.

Chris joined the Iowa City Bird Club in 1991 and vividly recalls an outing to Otter Creek Marsh in Tama County led by Jim Fuller. Star players such as Eurasian Wigeon and Hudsonian Godwit cooperated that day, forever cementing Chris' high regard for Jim. For many years Jim maintained a telephone Rare Bird Alert, since supplanted by our IOU list-serv, but a daily check of the Birdline became a routine habit for Chris. Another mentor, Tom Kent, enlisted Chris' help as a participant in the Coralville Reservoir Breeding Bird Survey from 1992 to 1994, thus introducing Chris to the science of birding. During this time, Chris learned to bird by ear, a crucial skill for BBS work. Indeed, Chris possesses a wondrously keen ear, and it's not unusual for him to hear and identify a bird before anyone else in the group even knows it's around.

Since joining ICBC, Chris has taken an active role in the organization as a frequent leader of field trips and, since 1996, as Iowa City's compiler for the Christmas Bird Count. In addition, Chris is the editor of the club's newsletter, *The Eastern Iowa Birdwatch*, published three times a year and viewable online at <www.icbirds.org/newsletter.html>.

In 1992 Chris joined the IOU and attended his first meeting at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Johnson County. His next meeting was the following year at Keosauqua, where a fieldtrip to Shimek State Forest was a highlight. Chris now considers Shimek to be his favorite birding haunt in Iowa, ticks notwithstanding. An IOU trip to Snake Creek Marsh led to Chris' meeting fellow Johnson County resident Chris Caster, who has become his most frequent birding companion.

Chris submitted his first seasonal field report to IOU in 1993 and hasn't missed a deadline since. His first discovery of a "rarity" was of a Whimbrel at the Sandy Beach area of Coralville in May 1994. That same year he found a Prairie Warbler at Lake Macbride and it was there in 1995 that he documented the first confirmed nesting of the species in Iowa (Edwards 1995). He has published several articles in *IBL* and he produced the site guide to Coralville Reservoir for the IOU <www.iowabirds.org/places/coralville.asp>.

It didn't take long for Iowa birders to recognize the talents of this relative newcomer from North Liberty. Chris was appointed to the IOU Records Committee in 1996, serving until 2001, and he began his second term on the committee this year.

Having a firm understanding of the critical relationship between birds and habitat, Chris is a long-time supporter of organizations that promote land stewardship, among them The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Johnson County Heritage Trust, and The American Bird Conservancy. As a frequent visitor to Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area in Johnson County, Chris organized and continues to direct an annual volunteer cleanup of the area. As a past participant in this effort, I can attest to the astonishing amount of litter and debris that can be discarded by careless or thoughtless people.

Birding is Chris' main hobby, but over the past ten years he has become increasingly interested in butterflies. Each year he schedules and leads three butterfly counts in eastern Iowa, contributing the data to the North American Butterfly Association. The parallels between birds and butterflies are many. Iowa has recorded approximately 115 butterfly species (vs 420 bird species). Ever the complete naturalist, Chris also assists the Iowa Department of Natural Resources with a thrice yearly amphibian survey, along defined routes similar to a breeding bird survey.

Warblers are Chris' favorite family of birds. He has counted 28 warbler species in one day, and he is determined to achieve the magical mark of 30 one of these years. His Iowa bird list stands at 355 species, one of our top marks, and Chris counts Bohemian Waxwing as his nemesis. His ABA area list numbers 564, facilitated in large measure by regular family trips to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and to Madera Canyon in southeast Arizona among many other locales.

For calendar year 2009, Chris has set three personal goals for birding in Iowa: to take part in the ongoing Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas project, to further his study of bird songs, and to add significantly to his county lists in eastern Iowa.

Keen of eye and ear, keeper of meticulous records, exacting in his standards, Chris Edwards is without question one of Iowa's leading birders and an exemplary practitioner of our hobby. In the field, his quiet, measured approach to the art of birding is a perfect model for anyone to follow.

And, on occasion, he will even share a cookie or two.

LITERATURE CITED

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Field Reports—Winter 2008–2009

Aaron E. Brees



Aaron Brees

EDITOR'S NOTE

I thank Bob Cecil for his much appreciated 13-yr stint as the skillful compiler of Iowa's winter field reports. Bob succeeded Ross Silcock, long-time winter field reports editor, with his first 1996–1997 Winter Field Reports in *IBL* 67(2). Bob has been a tireless IOU supporter for many years, having served multiple times in nearly every officer position and on the board of directors, on the Publications and Records Committees, and as compiler for the Keokuk Christmas Bird Count. Bob authors many articles for *IBL* and serves on the *IBL* staff as Iowa Birder Editor. He manages the auction at the semi-annual meetings, which benefits IOU publications. And Bob has been a steadfast supporter of my efforts as *IBL* editor since 2000. Thank you, Bob!

Aaron Brees thankfully agreed to take over this position for *IBL* 79(2) and has written his thoughts below after putting together his first excellent report. Serving as a field reports editor is a time-consuming and tedious job, and was even more so prior to Ann Johnson's on-line entry system, to which I know Bob also agrees. Aaron follows in Bob's footsteps having already served IOU on the Records and Membership Committees, as the *IBL* Christmas Bird Count Editor, and in contributing many reports, photographs, and articles to *IBL*. He also was just elected as IOU vice president. Thank you, Aaron!

WEATHER

It was another cold winter and one that made the presence of Snowy Owls and White-winged Crossbills seem entirely appropriate.

December was a month of wild extremes. It started off with mild temperatures, but a massive cold front arrived on the 14th (just in time for the CBCs), plunging temperatures from the 60s to zero, literally overnight. Sibley hit -14 degrees on the 15th, and a week later Cresco was down to -22 degrees. Following this bitter cold, temperatures rebounded all the way back up to 62 degrees in the southwest. In addition to the huge variation in temperature, it was a month of diverse and abundant precipitation. On the 18th–19th, the north was getting 6–12 inches of snow, while the south was getting two-thirds of an inch of freezing rain. Eight other storms brought snowfall of several inches, and freezing rain occurred on at least three other occasions. While it was the fourth snowiest December on record, warm weather at the end of the month melted most of it in the southern two-thirds of the state.

January was much like December, except colder. Coggon reached an impressive -40 degrees on the 16th and several locations set new record lows in the -30s on that day. Cedar Rapids recorded a staggering -52-degree wind chill on the 15th. Of course one week later it was 61 degrees in Leon and 64 degrees there the next week. It is not often that the temperature fluctuates 100 degrees in Iowa in a week! Most of the month's snow came from a series of storms in the second week. Two storms produced snows of 7+ inches, and freezing rain on the 3rd coated parts of northern Iowa.

February was erratic like the previous two months, but in contrast it was warmer and drier than average. In the first week of the month, temperatures varied from -16 degrees at Cresco on the 4th, to 68 degrees at Donnellson on the 7th. Temperatures cooled a bit through the end of the month but were still in the 60s in extreme southern Iowa on the 25th. Two big snows occurred mid-month with 7.5 inches in Des Moines on the 13th and 4.5 inches in Fayette on the 21st. Most of Iowa was receiving rain by the end of the month with sleet, freezing rain, and hail occasionally mixed in. Another snow finished out the month with 5 inches in parts of northern Iowa.

Despite some brutal cold snaps and some impressive snows, this winter ended up warmer and drier than last winter, thanks to the warm, dry February. Overall it was the 32nd coldest and 58th wettest out of 136 years of records.

GENERAL TRENDS

As usual, waterfowl lingered into the winter season wherever they could find open water. However, most of that water became ice in mid-December, sending the birds south and pushing those that remained to the usual spots below dams or at aerators. Even the southerly pools on the Mississippi River were all but frozen by mid-January. The number of puddle ducks that spent the winter in Iowa was extremely low. When the weather finally broke in mid-February, spring migrants immediately began pushing northward with some ducks reaching the northern tier of counties by 17 February.

Gallinaceous birds are probably under reported; however, another hard winter certainly did nothing for their numbers. Northern Bobwhite was only reported from one county, a single Ruffed Grouse was found, and there were no large groups of turkeys or pheasants reported.

Despite the weather, healthy American White Pelicans successfully overwintered at two locations. Often late winter birds are incapable of migrating and don't survive, so it was nice to still see pelicans flying around the Red Rock Reservoir outflow in February.

While it was not an exceptional year for lingering migrants or residents, it was an excellent year for many of the "real" winter species. Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes were everywhere, apparently finding plenty of small rodents to eat. Snowy Owls were not quite as widespread, but were reported from several northern counties.

Creating the most excitement this winter was the big, and seemingly long overdue, finch eruption. Purple Finches and Red Crossbills were present in fairly typical numbers, but White-winged Crossbills, Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins staged large invasions. Crossbills often spent days or weeks prying apart the local park or cemetery's conifer cones. Redpolls were very common in northeastern and northcentral Iowa. Finally, siskins were the most widely distributed, making it in good numbers to our southern counties and

beyond. While no longer a surprise, not a single Evening or Pine grosbeak joined the finch hoards this winter. Rounding out the northern invaders, Snow Buntings were common, with large flocks in northern Iowa and smaller flocks everywhere else.

While finches and northern raptors are known to invade due to lack of food resources, what could possibly explain what some have called "the winter of the sapsucker"? For some unknown reason, dozens of sapsuckers decided to stick it out in Iowa instead of heading south to warmer territory. This year certainly did not have more favorable weather conditions than usual and there was no known superabundance of sapsucker food. While fun for birders, the lack of February reports suggests that this experiment won't be tried again soon, at least not by these individual birds.

And to round out the unexpected occurrences, the idea of Tree Swallows cruising over a frozen lake on a mid-December day seems a bit bizarre, yet there they were.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Hoary Redpoll was the only Accidental species reported and Black Vulture was the only Casual species found.

COMMENT

On behalf of the entire IOU, I would like to thank Bob Cecil for the excellent job he did during his many years of compiling the Winter Field Reports. I thought I had an idea of how much time went into these things, but I was wrong. I really cannot imagine the effort that it took back in the pre-online data entry days. I am very fortunate to have Bob's reports to look back on to help figure out what exactly I am supposed to be doing.

I would also like to make a couple brief comments about submitting field reports. First, if you have Internet access and have not tried the online data entry, please give it a shot. It is not difficult and saves the editor a huge amount of time. Direct submissions are of course still welcome; however, please make sure you include all of the needed information, especially the county. It is time consuming for an editor to look up these details, while the observer generally knows local locations by heart.

Second, please include some identification details for rare or out-of-season species. I think it is best to be conservative when publishing sightings, so if the date is unusual and there are no details, it will probably be left out of the report as was the case with several good birds this winter. Just knowing that the observer understood the record was unusual makes a big difference. The quality of details received for this field report was excellent when they were provided and were greatly appreciated.

SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental. * = documented, ph = photo. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **CBC** = Christmas bird count, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **m.ob.** = many ob-

servers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **R** = river, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area.

Greater White-fronted Goose: The only seemingly overwintering birds were 4 on 1 Jan at Blue L Monona (SJD). The first

migrants were 8 on 6 Feb in *Decatur* (ZMi). Spring migration brought the season's high counts: 1,500 from 10–26 Feb at *Rapp P Page* (KDy) and 1,200 on 28 Feb at *Diehl wetlands Warren* (JG).

Snow Goose: The only lingering flocks reported were of 50 on 2 Dec in *Sioux* (JVD) and 75 on 8 Dec in *Decatur* (NMi). From 1–4 wintering birds were reported in *Crawford, Dallas, Decatur, Lee, Monona, and Polk* (JG, SJD, AB, NMi). A migrant flock of 2,000 was at *Rapp P Page* on 10 Feb (KDy).

Ross's Goose: 2 on 16 Dec at *Port Neal Woodbury* (POR) and 7 on 17 Jan in *Decatur* (ZMi) were the only reports prior to spring migration. The first migrants, and high count for the season, were 30 at *Rapp P Page* on 6 Feb (KDy). From 1–2 were reported from 7 other counties.

Cackling Goose: Late migrants on 12 Dec included 3 near *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (RLC) and 41 at *Maffitt Res Dallas* (JG). Single wintering birds were reported from *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (SJD, JG) and *Mahaska* (SJD, JG). The first spring migrants were noted on 7 Feb in *Decatur* (NMi), *Polk* (SJD), and *Page* (KDy). The high count for the season was 673 on 10 Feb at *Rapp P Page* (KDy).

Canada Goose: The three highest counts for the season were 9,350 in *Monona* on 1 Jan (SJD), 10,000 in *Monona* on 8 Feb (KDy), and 7,600 in *Polk* on 18 Feb (BE).

Trumpeter Swan: Beemer's Pond *Hamilton*, a traditional wintering site, had 91 on 24 Dec (SJD) and 77 on 24 Jan (JG). Other high counts included 23 in *Polk* on 8 Jan (SJD) and 21 in *Boone* on 24 Jan (JG). Away from central Iowa, the most reported was 8 at *Blue L Monona* (TLu, POR).

Tundra Swan: Singles reported were an imm on 15 Dec at *Heron Bend Lee* (SJD, AB), an ad on 31 Jan at *L&D 19 Lee* (JG, SJD), and an ad on 24 Feb at *Blue L Monona*

(POR, TLu). Two ads were at *Union Grove SP Tama* on 28 Feb (MPr, RIA/PHA). Details were provided for all birds.

Wood Duck: A male successfully wintered at *Keokuk Lee* (SJD, JG, RLC, JLF). Spring migrants were noted on 21 Feb in *Decatur* (NMi) and *Warren* (JSi).

Gadwall: The only reports of wintering birds were 6 on 30 Jan in *Allamakee* (DK) and through the season at *Keokuk Lee* (JG, SJD). Twelve spring migrants were reported from *Polk* on 1 Feb (BE).

American Wigeon: There were no reports of wintering birds. The first reports of migrants were from 8 Feb with 5 at *Swan L SP Carroll* (SJD) and 50 at *Riverton WA Fremont* (KDy).

American Black Duck: Of the nearly twenty reports received, none was west of a line from *Decatur* to *Hamilton* counties. High counts were 9 on 7 Feb in *Decatur* (ZMi) and 5 on 4 Jan at *Red Rock Res Marion* (JG). In addition, 3 American Black Duck x Mallard hybrids were at *Red Rock Res Marion* on 29 Dec (SJD).

Mallard: High counts for the season were 15,000 on 6 Dec and 10,000 on 19 Feb at *Riverton WA* (KDy). These counts are probably fall and spring migrants as no January totals of this magnitude were reported.

Blue-winged Teal: A very early male was feeding on the ice at *Green Valley L Union* on 22 Feb (KDy-details) [record early].

Northern Shoveler: The only wintering reports were of 1–2 birds at *Ottumwa Wapello* (AB, SJD, JG). This is a very low count for this traditional wintering spot. Northbound migrants were in *Polk* on 1 Feb (BE).

Northern Pintail: Four reports from January may have been wintering birds, the northernmost being 1 on 29 Jan at *Decorah Winneshiek* (DK). Spring migrants peaked at

2,500 on 15 Feb at Golden Pond *Fremont* (KDy) and one had made it to Clear L *Cerro Gordo* by 17 Feb (PH).

Green-winged Teal: Singles overwintered at Mebaska Pond *Boone* (SJD), Heron Bend *Lee* (JG, SJD), and L&D 19 *Lee* (JG, SJD). The first spring migrants were 2 at Riverton WA *Fremont* on 7 Feb (KDy).

Canvasback: The flock on the Mississippi R in *Lee* declined through the season from a high of 23,000 on 15 Dec on the Keokuk CBC (SJD) to 2,200, possibly including returning birds, on 21 Feb (RLC). Spring migrants reached *Decatur*, *Monona*, *Page*, *Polk*, and *Scott* in the last week of February (ZMi, GLV, KDy, JB, DP).

Redhead: Late birds included 1 at Ada Hayden P *Story* from 10–12 Dec (SJD), 2 at Maffitt Res *Dallas* on 12 Dec (JG), 10 on the Mississippi R *Lee* on 15 Dec (SJD), and 1 on 2 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MPr). One was still in *Lee* on 31 Jan (SJD), and small numbers of spring migrants were at several locations by the end of the season.

Ring-necked Duck: Late migrants were at Maffitt Res *Dallas* on 12 Dec (JG), Riverdale *Scott* on 14 Dec (WMZ), and *Muscatine* on 21 Dec (WMZ). One on 2 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MPr) may have been wintering. The high count was 376 at Pool 19 *Lee* on 15 Dec (SJD) with 97 still in the area on 31 Jan (SJD, JG).

Greater Scaup: All: 168 on 15 Dec on the Keokuk CBC (SJD), 229 on 11 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD, JG), 16 on 31 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD, JG), 3 on 21 Feb at Pool 19 *Lee* (RLC), and 7 on 28 Feb at Cedar L *Linn* (BSc, DP).

Lesser Scaup: Except for 1 on 24 Jan at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* (SJD) and 2 on 2 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MPr), all post-CBC birds were on the Mississippi R. The late winter peak at Keokuk *Lee* was 168 on 15 Dec (SJD), falling to 18 on 31 Jan (SJD),

before spring migrants produced the seasonal high count of 500 on 21 Feb (RLC).

Surf Scoter: The only scoter of any species reported this winter was an immature bird on the Keokuk CBC on 15 Dec (AB-details, SJD-details).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 4 including an adult male on 15 Dec at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD, AB), 1 on 20 Dec below the Red Rock dam *Marion* (SJD, JG, AB), and 1 on 11 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD, JG).

Bufflehead: Late birds included 10, then 3, on 12–13 Dec at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC), 43 on 15 Dec at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), and 1 on 1 Jan at Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JG). Two appeared to overwinter successfully at Keokuk *Lee* (SJD, RLC). Spring migrants were noted on 22 Feb in *Scott* (DP) and 25 Feb in *Decatur* (ZMi).

Common Goldeneye: The interior high count was a rather low 180 at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 6 Dec (SJD). Late birds away from the Mississippi R were 61 on 1 Jan at Blue L *Monona* (SJD), 10 on 6 Jan in *Woodbury* (TLu), 55 on 8 Jan at the Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (SJD), and 12 on 11 Jan at Maffitt Res *Polk* (JB). High counts on the Mississippi R were from Pool 19 *Lee* with 3,795 on 15 Dec (SJD) and 5,525 on 11 Jan (SJD, JG). Migrants had reached Clear L *Cerro Gordo* on 22 Feb (PH).

Hooded Merganser: Post-CBC reports included 9 on 11 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD, JG) dropping to 2 on 31 Jan (SJD) and 1 on 23 Jan at Cedar L *Linn* (DP). The first migrants and the high count were 10 on 10 Feb at Rapp P *Page* (KDy).

Common Merganser: It was a poor year for this species at the major reservoirs. The high count for Red Rock Res *Marion* was only 2,100 on 5 Dec (AB). Saylorville Res *Polk* topped out at a stunningly low 283 on 2 Dec (SJD), while Rathbun Res *Appanoose* had 6,000 on 13 Dec (RLC). At Pool

19 *Lee*, 1,175 were present on 11 Jan, but only 75 remained on 31 Jan (SJD). The first spring migrant was 1 on 6 Feb at Cedar L Linn (BSc) and 10 had reached Clear L *Cerro Gordo* by 10 Feb (PH).

Red-breasted Merganser: All: 12 on 2 Dec at Rapp P *Page* (KDy), 6 then 1 on 2, 6 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 11 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (JG, SJD), and 1 on 25 Feb in *Polk* (JG).

Ruddy Duck: The only report was of 2 on 21 Feb at Montrose on the Mississippi R *Lee* (RLC).

Gray Partridge: Despite some good partridge searching conditions, only four reports were received. Groups of 6 and 4 were in *Boone* (LGD), 5 were in *Chickasaw*, and 11 were in *Hamilton* (SJD).

Ruffed Grouse: The lone report was of one bird at Pony Hollow Trail *Clayton* (CLW).

Wild Turkey: The largest winter flock reported was 57 in *Madison* (JG).

Northern Bobwhite: All: coveys of 5, 6, and 9 in *Decatur* (JRL, NMi)

Pied-billed Grebe: All: singles on 6 Dec at Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JG), 12 Dec at Cedar L Linn (BSc), 13 Dec at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC), and 18 Dec at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD).

Horned Grebe: All: 1 on 16 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

American White Pelican: Late birds included 1 on 2 Dec at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (TLu, GLV), 1 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), and 2 on 13 Dec at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC). At Red Rock Res *Marion*, 9 successfully overwintered below the dam (JG, AB, MPr). At Keokuk *Lee*, 152 were present for the CBC (SJD), 59 apparently overwintered (SJD, JG), and 120 on 31 Jan (SJD, JG) included early migrants. One on 31 Jan in *Scott* (DR) may also have been a migrant.

Double-crested Cormorant: All: 1 on

21 Dec at Fairport in *Muscatine* (WMZ) and 1 on 7 Jan at Davenport *Scott* (JLF).

Great Blue Heron: Late birds from after the CBC period included 1 on 11 Jan at Montrose *Lee* (JG), 1 on 11 Jan at Sycamore Access *Polk* (AB), 1 on 17 Jan in *Story* (HZ), 1 on 21 Jan in *Polk* (DK), 2 on 22 Jan at Iowa City *Johnson* (MHB), 1 on 31 Jan in *Scott* (DR), 6 on 31 Jan at L&D 19 *Lee* (JG, SJD), 1 on 3 Feb in *Polk* (DK), and 1 on 7 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MPr). Returning birds were 1 on 14 Feb at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy) and 11 at Credit Island *Scott* on 22 Feb (CRE, DP).

BLACK VULTURE: This casual migrant was over Des Moines *Polk* on 24 Feb (*AMJ) providing a very early spring record.

Turkey Vulture: 1 on 7 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MPr)

Bald Eagle: The high count was 694 in *Lee* on the Keokuk CBC (SJD). Birds were back on nests by the end of the period (JG).

Northern Harrier: There were very few reports this winter. All: 1 on 29 Dec in *Linn* (POR), singles in *Lee* and *Van Buren* on 31 Jan (JG), 2 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* on 10 Feb (KVS), 1 on 13 Feb in *Hardin* (MPr), 1 on 15 Feb in *Fremont* (KDy), 1 on 15 Feb at Cone Marsh *Louisa* (DP), 1 on 26 Feb in *Winneshiek* (Larry Reis fide DeC), and 4 over the season in *Decatur* (ZMi).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: It was not a great year for this species with only 8 reports.

Cooper's Hawk: Along with Sharpshinned, probably inconsistently reported. Of 15 reports, 8 were from MPr in central Iowa.

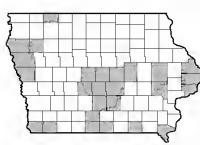
Northern Goshawk: It was not an irruption year. All: 1 immature chasing ducks on 6 Dec at Maffitt Res *Polk* (AB-details) and 1 adult chasing pigeons on 20 Jan at Ames *Story* (SJD-details).

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were 10 reports of 1–2 birds, most from within

the known breeding range of this species. One in *Boone* was the westernmost report (Jim Moreland fide SJD).

Red-tailed Hawk: Only a few reports of this common species were received, most noting Harlan's or rufous western birds.

Rough-legged Hawk: It was a good


year for this species with 39 reports from 25+ counties. The high count was 9 on 10 Jan at *Owego Wetlands*

Woodbury (POR).

Golden Eagle: In northeast Iowa, DK found different adults on 29 Dec, 20 Jan, and 24 Feb in *Allamakee* and an imm on 30 Jan in *Clayton*. All others: 26 Dec at *Saylorville Res Polk* (MAC), 24 Jan at *Manly Worth* (Joe Myhre fide RIC), and 1 Feb at *Waubonsie SP Fremont* (KDy).

Merlin: This species wintered in good numbers again with 28 reports from 18 counties representing all corners of the state. Several apparently wintered in *Woodbury* (TLu, POR, BFH) while 4 was the most reported from the Glendale Cemetery roost in *Polk* (JG).

Peregrine Falcon: All: 1 on 5 Feb at *Cedar Rapids Linn* (BSc), 1 to 2 from 3 Jan–22 Feb at *Davenport Scott* (JLF, CRE, DP), and 1 on 23 Feb at *Burlington Des Moines* (JLF).

Prairie Falcon: All: singles were reported on 2 Dec at the Pioneer fields *Polk* (JG-details), 14 Dec in *Cherokee* (POR, TLu), 24 Dec in *Hamilton* (SJD-details), and 12–20 Feb in *Woodbury* (POR, TLu, GLV).

American Coot: Birds lingering northward included 9 on 12 Dec at *Maffitt Res Dallas* (JG), 2 on 13 Dec at *Ada Hayden P Story* (SJD), and 1 on 24 Dec at *Beemer's Pond Hamilton* (SJD). A single bird on 31 Jan at *L&D 19 Lee* was probably wintering (JG, SJD) while 1 last reported on 15 Feb in *Marshall* seemed to do so successfully

(MPr). Spring migrants were noted during the last week of February in *Lee, Monona, and Warren* (RLC, TLu, JG).

Killdeer: The only mid-winter report was 1 on 19 Jan in *Winneshiek* (DK). The first migrants arrived on 9 Feb in *Decatur* (JRL, NMi) and 10 Feb in *Story* (SJD) and *Dallas* (RIA/PHA).

Wilson's Snipe: A bird found at *Montrose Lee* on the Keokuk CBC was still present through 31 Jan (SJD, JG, JLF). Another was in *Winneshiek* on 19 Jan (DK), and 3 were in *Allamakee* on 20 Jan and 24 Feb (DK).

American Woodcock: Early migrants were in *Decatur* on 25 Feb (NMi, ZMi).

Ring-billed Gull: The high count for the period was 5,000 on 14 Dec at *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (RLC). The last bird away from the Mississippi R was 1 on 27 Dec at the Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (SJD). Wintering birds at *Pool 19 Lee* declined from 176 on 11 Jan (JG, SJD) to 44 on 31 Jan (SJD). The first migrants were noted on 9 Feb in *Page* (KDy) and 10 Feb in *Polk* (SJD) and *Decatur* (ZMi).

Herring Gull: Mid-winter reports included 28 on 10 Jan at *Cedar Rapids Linn* (BSc), 5 on 11 Jan at *Ottumwa Wapello* (SJD), and 794 on 11 Jan at *Pool 19 Lee* (SJD, JG). The *Pool 19* flock was down to 3 on 31 Jan (SJD). The first migrant reported was at *Hallett's Quarry Polk* on 20 Feb (JG).

Thayer's Gull: All: 2 ads on 15 Dec at *Pool 19 Lee* (SJD), 2 juvs on 7 Jan at *Davenport Scott* (JLF), an ad on 10 Jan at *Cedar Rapids Linn* (BSc), 2 juvs at *Pool 19 Lee* (SJD, JG), an ad on 22 Feb at *L&D 15 Scott* (CRE, DP).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: an ad at *Red Rock Res Marion* from 5–7 Dec (AB, POR) and an ad on 21 Jan at *Bettendorf Scott* (JLF).

Glaucous Gull: All: a juv on 2 Dec at

Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), a 4th year and 2 juvs at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), an ad and 2 juvs at Pool 19 *Lee* on 15 Dec (SJD, AB), a juv on 7, 21 Jan at Bettendorf *Scott* (JLF), an ad and 3 juvs at Pool 19 *Lee* on 11 Jan (SJD, JG), a 2nd year at L&D 14 *Scott* on 31 Jan (DR), and a juv from 28 Jan–2 Feb at Cedar L *Linn* (BSc, DP).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: There were reports from only 13 counties, presumably because this species is considered less notable than in prior years. High counts were fairly modest: 14 on 20 Dec in *Dickinson* (ET), 47 on 4 Jan in *Jasper* (JG), and 32 on 25 Jan in *Marion* (JG).

Mourning Dove: Few reports were received and no large wintering flocks were noted.

Eastern Screech-Owl: There were 7 reports from all but the northeast corner of the state.

Great Horned Owl: An injured Arctic race bird in *Hamilton* was taken to the ISU Wildlife Care Clinic (fide SJD). Owls were on nests in *Woodbury* on 6 Feb (GLV) and *Johnson* on 7 Feb (DP).

Snowy Owl: While many birds were present and reported on the listserv, it is disappointing that several of these birds were not submitted for the field reports. All: 1 on 21 Dec in *Winnebago* (Jan Rauk fide JB), 1 from 1–29 Jan in *Hancock* (fide MCK), 1–2 from 14 Jan–14 Feb in *Dickinson* (ET, LAS), 1–2 from 27 Jan–14 Feb in *Woodbury* (TLu, POR, GLV, BFH, SJD), 1 on 28 Feb in *Kossuth* (Teresa Lappe fide RGo).

Barred Owl: Reports from the north and west were of 1 in *Ida* (TLu) and 2 in *Woodbury* (BFH).

Long-eared Owl: Reported from 19 widespread counties. The high counts were 5 through the season in *Decatur* (JRL), 5 from

7 Dec–16 Jan at *Pierce Creek Page* (KDy), and 8 on 8 Feb at *Moorehead P Ida* (SJD).

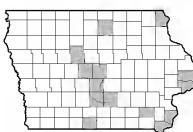
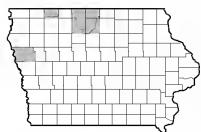
Short-eared Owl: Widely reported in small numbers from about 17 counties. Up to 12 wintered at *Owego Wetlands Woodbury* (POR, GLV, TLu, BFH), up to 11 were present through the season in *Decatur* (JRL, NMi, ZMi), and 2–5 were reported irregularly throughout the winter at *Neal Smith NWR Jasper* (KVS, JG, RIA/PHA).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 on 23 Dec at *Big Creek L Polk* (SJD), 1 on 24 Dec at *Saylorville Res Polk* (JG), 1–3 from 27 Dec–19 Feb at *Moorehead P Ida* (TLu, RIA/PHA, SJD, GLV), 1 on 1 Jan–1 Feb at *Grammer Grove P Marshall* (MPr), 1 on 2 Jan–10 Feb at *Kent P Johnson* (DP, CRE, JLF), 1 on 19 Jan and 28 Feb at *Union Grove SP Tama* (MPr), 1 from 24 Jan–19 Feb in *Boone* (SJD), 2 on 7 Feb at *Saylorville Res Polk* (SJD), 1 on 16 Feb at *Volga R RA Fayette* (CRE), and 1 on 19 Feb at *Fairmount Cemetery Scott* (WMZ). Distribution seemed patchy and PH could not find one in north central Iowa despite extensive searching.

Belted Kingfisher: Post-CBC reports included singles on 6 Jan in *Woodbury* (TLu), 11 Jan at L&D 19 *Lee* (JG), 31 Jan at *Fort Madison Lee* (JG), and 4 Feb in *Winneshiek* (DeC). Birds were noted as wintering in *Alamakee*, *Clayton*, and *Polk* (DK). Migrants were back in *Fremont* on 15 Feb (KDy).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Generally scarce this winter. Small numbers were reported from 11 counties and the high count was of 5 wintering at *Waubonsie SP Fremont* (KDy).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Probably the most interesting and unexplained phenomenon of the winter season was the unprecedented number of sapsuckers lingering or attempting to winter



in the state. Reports were received from 16 counties with multiple birds in many of them. The high count was an astounding 8 on 15 Dec in *Lee* on the Keokuk CBC (SJD, AB), which by itself is double the winter total from last year. Northerly birds were 1 throughout Dec at Mason City *Cerro Gordo*, and two reported on 25 Jan in *Webster* and *Boone* (SJD). The last was 1 on 1 Feb in *Decatur* (JRL). The lack of any later reports would seem to suggest that most of these birds did not successfully winter in Iowa.

Northern Flicker: Only a few were reported after the CBC period. The northernmost was at Mason City *Cerro Gordo* on 4 Jan (PH).

Pileated Woodpecker: Birds away from the Mississippi valley were in *Decatur* (JRL, ZMi), *Hardin* (MP), *Linn* (MBa), *Warren* (JSi), *Lucas* (JSi), and *Boone* (LGD).

Loggerhead Shrike: A rather typical winter for this declining species. All: singles in *Scott* on 14 Dec (WMZ-details), *Appanoose* on 1 Jan (RLC), and *Fremont* on 9 Dec, 26 Jan, and 25 Feb (KDy). Details for northerly birds are always appreciated.

Northern Shrike: It was another banner year for this species with reports received from 30 counties. Multiple birds were found in 14 counties including a high of 9 over the season in *Winnesiekie* (DK). Several birds made it to the southern tier: 3 in *Fremont* (KDy), 2 in *Page* (KDy), and singles in *Appanoose* (RLC), *Decatur* (ZMi), and *Van Buren* (JG).

Horned Lark: Snow cover produced good conditions for viewing this species. Large flocks included 2,500+ in *Decatur* (JRL), 914 on 24 Dec in *Hamilton* (SJD), 490 on 17 Jan in *Hardin* (SJD), and 425 on 25 Jan in *Warren* (JG).

Tree Swallow: 6 on 14 Dec [record



late] were found by Ken Hunt on the Iowa City CBC and relocated by others (*CRE, MHB-ph).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: With reports from about 14 locations, it was not a good year for this species and several observers noted that it was hard to find. The high count was 5 on 19 Jan in *Jefferson* (CRE).

Brown Creeper: Birds that seemed to overwinter successfully were 2 in Sioux City *Woodbury* (GLV), 1 or 2 on the Iowa State University campus *Story* (LGD), 1 or 2 in *Johnson* (JLF), and 1 at Fairmount Cemetery *Scott* (WMZ).

Carolina Wren: Despite the previous hard winter, this species seems to be holding on. Birds wintering away from the usual areas were 1 at Sioux City *Woodbury* (GLV), 2 at Ames *Story* (PS), and 1 in *Dallas* (TL). The high counts were 16 on 15 Dec and 14 on 31 Jan in *Lee* (SJD).

Winter Wren: All: 1 on 10 Dec in *Dubuque* (CLW), up to 3 through 5 Jan at *Burlington Des Moines* (JLF) and 1 on 28 Jan in *Decatur* (ZMi).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: There were four mid- to late winter reports: 1 on 11 Jan at Keokuk *Lee* (JG, SJD), 2 on 18 Jan at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (DT), 1 on 31 Jan at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (JG, SJD), and 4 from 6–28 Feb at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (BSc, JLF).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 on 15 Dec in *Lee* on the Keokuk CBC (SJD-details).

Eastern Bluebird: Widely reported this winter. High counts were 50 in *Madison* from 1–3 Jan (Kevin Holm fide HZ), 37 in *Plymouth* on 4 Jan (POR), and 20 in *Cedar* on 1 Feb (CRE).

Hermit Thrush: All: 1 on 1 Dec in *Decatur* (NMi), 2 on 15 Dec in *Lee* (SJD), 1 on 25 Dec in *Monona* (SJD), 1 on 28 Dec in *Fremont* (KDy), 1 on 10 Jan in *Lucas* (JSi), 1 on 11 Jan in *Lee* (SJD, JG), 1 on 11 Jan in *Mahaska* (CRE), and 1 on 20 Jan in *Al-*

lamakee (DK). A lack of any later reports suggests these birds did not successfully overwinter.

American Robin: High counts were 1,000+ on 1 Jan in *Union* (Kevin Holm fide HZ), 1,500 from 1 Jan–20 Feb in *Page* (KDy), and 1,464 on 3 Jan in *O'Brien* (LAS).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 1 from 8–18 Feb near *Farragut Fremont* (KDy) and noted as present through the season in *Decatur* (JRL, NMi, ZMi).

Bohemian Waxwing: All: 8 in *Story* on the Ames CBC (SSP-details).

Cedar Waxwing: Widely reported. Triple digit flocks were in *Boone* (LGD), *Poweshiek* (CRE), *Clarke* (JG), *Decatur* (ZMi), *Appanoose* (DT), *Henry* (CRE), and *Adams* (KDy). The high count was 1,500 on 20 Feb at *Green Valley L Union* (KDy).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Post-CBC birds included 1 on 4 Jan at *Red Rock Res Marion* (JG), 1 on 8 Jan in *Polk* (DK), 1 on 11 Jan at *Saylorville Polk* (BE), 4 on 18 Jan–8 Feb in *Appanoose* (DT, RLC), 1 on 19 Jan in *Winneshiek* (DK, Larry Reis fide DeC), 1 through 21 Jan in *Decatur* (NMi), 2 on 31 Jan in *Dallas* (TL), 1 from 10 Dec–23 Feb at *Burlington Des Moines* (JLF), 4 on 25 Feb in *Decatur* (JRL), 11 on 25 Feb in *Decatur* (NMi), and 1 on 28 Feb in *Decatur* (POR).

Spotted Towhee: All: 2 from 18 Jan–15 Feb at *Waubonsie SP Fremont* (KDy), 1 on 24 Jan in *Warren* (JSi), and 1 on 28 Feb in *Warren* (David Youngbluth fide AMJ).

Eastern Towhee: All: 1 on 7 Dec in *Dallas* (TL) and 14 Dec in *Scott* (WMZ).

Chipping Sparrow: One was very early on 25 Feb in *Johnson* (JLF).

Field Sparrow: The only report for this rare winter species did not include any details.

Le Conte's Sparrow: Three reports were received without details.

Fox Sparrow: Birds after the CBC period included 1 on 18 Jan in *Woodbury* (POR), 1 on 24 Jan in *Scott* (WMZ), 2 on 12 Feb in *Decatur* (NMi, ZMi), 1 on 15 Feb in *Warren* (JSi), 2 on 24 Feb in *Decatur* (ZMi), and singles on 25 Feb in *Linn* (BSc) and *Decatur* (JRL).

Song Sparrow: Singles on 9 Jan in *Chickasaw* (PH) and 20 Jan in *Woodbury* (GLV) were testing the northern edge of the wintering range.

Lincoln's Sparrow: 1 in 16 Dec in *Woodbury* (POR) and 1 on 8 Feb in *Fremont* (KDy).

Swamp Sparrow: All: 1 at *Rice L Worth* on 1 Jan (PH), 1 on 24 Jan at *L Ahquabi SP Warren* (JSi), 2 at *Roberts Creek P Marion* on 25 Jan (JG), 3 in *Lee* on 31 Jan (JG), 7 at *Riverton WA Fremont* on 8 Feb (KDy), and 2 on 25 Feb in *Decatur* (JRL).

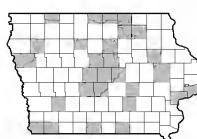
White-throated Sparrow: Reported throughout the period in small numbers. The high count was 21 on 20 Dec in *Story* (LGD).

Harris's Sparrow: The high count was 4 on 16 Jan in *Monona* (POR). From 1 to 2 were reported from 7 other counties.

White-crowned Sparrow: Reported from 13 counties, mostly in southern Iowa. High counts were 9 in *Lee* on 31 Jan (SJD, JG) and 13 in *Fremont* on 14 Feb (KDy).

Lapland Longspur: Reports came from all parts of the state. High counts were 261 in *Hamilton* (SJD), 826 in *Mahaska* (JG, SJD), 480 in *Woodbury* (SJD), 475 in *Decatur* (JRL), and 280 in *Buchanan* (CRE).

Snow Bunting: It was good year for this species with 37 reports. Most were in northern or central Iowa, but 24 in *Page* and 124 in *Fremont* (KDy) were in the southern tier. High counts included 1,403



on 24 Dec in *Hamilton* (SJD), 1,000+ on 16 Jan in *Humboldt* (MCK), 1,725 on 17 Jan in *Franklin* (SJD), 2,585 on 17 Jan in *Hardin* (SJD), and 657 on 28 Feb in *Dickinson* (ET).

Dickcissel: A report was received without details.

Red-winged Blackbird: High counts were 400 on 10 Jan in *Warren* (JSi) and 190 on 17 Jan in *Clarke* (JG).

meadowlark species: 6 overwintered at *Owego Wetlands Woodbury* (TLu, BFH). The high count was 63 on 15 Feb at *Golden Pond Fremont* (KDy).

Rusty Blackbird: Reports of 1–10 birds in 8 counties, all in the southern half of the state. The high count was 10 on 25 Feb in *Decatur* (NMI).

Brewer's Blackbird: Three reports of singles, all with excellent details: 20 Dec in *Marion* (JG), 11 Jan in *Dallas* (BE), and 17 Jan in *Clarke* (JG). Others were reported without details.

Common Grackle: Small numbers were reported from 10 counties and no large flocks were reported. Migrants were in *Woodbury* by the end of the period (TLu).

Great-tailed Grackle: All: 50 on 7 Dec in *Warren* (RTr), 8 on 17 Jan in *Clarke* (JG), 75 on 7 Feb in *Warren* (JSi), and 256 on 28 Feb in *Warren* (JG).

Brown-headed Cowbird: The largest flock was 36 on 13 Dec in *Warren* (JG). From 1–5 were reported from 7 other counties.

Purple Finch: There were 20 reports from all parts of the state. High counts were 40 on 17 Jan in *Warren* (JSi) and 39 on 20 Jan in *Allamakee* (DK).

Red Crossbill: This species did not invade with the other northern finches. All: 3 on 6 Dec at *Grammer Grove P Marshall* (MPR), up to 16 from 6 Dec–31 Jan at *Kuehn Conservation Area Dallas* (TL), 3 or 4 from 23 Dec–25 Jan at *Hooper WA/L*

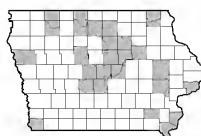
Ahquabi SP Warren (JG, JSi), 1 on 24 Jan at *Maffitt R Madison* (JSi), 1 in *Cerro Gordo* on 6 Feb (PH), and 2 in *Webster* on 7 Feb (MHB).

White-winged Crossbill: It was an excellent invasion year for this nomadic species with flocks appearing in cemeteries and parks with conifer plantings in northeast and northcentral Iowa.



More than 30 reports from 13 counties were received. All: up to 20 from 18 Dec–6 Feb at *Squaw Creek P Linn* (BSc, m.ob.), 1 on 20 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (SJD), 2 on 24 Dec and 25+ on 31 Jan at *Algona Kosuth* (MCK), up to 30 from 23 Jan–22 Feb at *Fairmount Cemetery Scott* (WMZ, m.ob.), 9 on 25 Jan at *Humboldt Humboldt* (SJD), 2 on 31 Jan at *Scott County P Scott* (DR), 10 on 7 Feb at *Matsell Bridge WA Linn* (BSc), 3 on 7 Feb in *Webster* (MHB), 6 on 8 Feb at *Cedar Falls Black Hawk* (ALB), 6 on 14 Feb at *Burr Oak Winneshiek* (Lee Zieke fide DeC), up to 20 from 15–22 Feb at the *Hampton Cemetery Franklin* (SJD, m.ob.), 5 on 22 Feb at *Britt Hancock* (SJD, JG), 3 on 24 Jan and 5 on 22 Feb at *Iowa Falls Hardin* (JG, SJD), 2 on 22 Feb at *Forest City Winnebago* (SJD, JG), 8 on 22 Feb at *Spencer Clay* (LAS), and 2 on 25 Feb at *Garner Cemetery Hancock* (RGo).

Common Redpoll: Redpolls were extremely common across northern Iowa, but



very few made it south of I 80. Nearly 60 reports were received, with high counts of 40+ from 25 Jan–3 Feb at *Owego Wetlands Woodbury* (TLu, POR, GLV), 150 on 5 Feb at *Owego Wetlands Woodbury* (POR), 50 on 7 Feb in *Webster* (MHB), 110 on 13 Feb at *Lake Meyer Winneshiek* (Lee Zieke fide DeC), and up to 140

from 13–28 Feb in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF). The most southerly reports were 1 on 11 Jan at *Heron Bend Lee* (SJD, JG) and 12 on 7 Feb in *Des Moines* (JWR).

HOARY REDPOLL: 1 on 6 Feb in Carolyn Fischer's yard *Cerro Gordo* (*CJF, *RGo, *PH).

Pine Siskin: Siskins were the most widespread and probably underreported of the northern finches with over 30 reports from all parts of the state. Large flocks included up to 56 through the period at a feeder in Mason City *Cerro*



Gordo (PH), up to 50 through the period at a feeder in *Scott* (WMZ), 70 on 15 Feb at the *Hampton Cemetery Franklin* (SJD), and 46 on 26 Feb in *Page* (KDy).

American Goldfinch: The only large flock reported was 221 on 26 Feb in *Page* (KDy).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reported from 9 southeastern counties. Birds on the edge of the range were 4 on 19 Jan in *Jefferson* (CRE), 1 on 19 Jan in *Henry* (CRE), 3 on 1 Feb in *Cedar* (CRE), and 1 on 21 Feb at *Cedar Rapids Linn* (BSc). The high count was 50+ through the period in *Des Moines* (JLF).

CONTRIBUTORS

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Matthew Baumann	MBa	Robins	Nathan Miller	NMi	Davis City
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Zach Miller	ZMi	Davis City
Aaron Brees	AB	Des Moines	Shane Patterson	SSP	Ames
Alan Brown	AIB	Cedar Falls	Diana Pesek	DP	Cedar Rapids
Mark Brown	MHB	Iowa City	Mark Proescholdt	MPr	Liscomb
Mark Carson	MAC	Cambridge	Don Robinson	DR	Silvis, IL
Dennis Carter	DeC	Decorah	Paul Roisen	POR	Sioux City
Robert Cecil	RIC	Des Moines	John Rutenbeck	JWR	Burlington
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In addition, Ellen Bell, Dick Bierman, Doug Harr, Josh Obrecht, Katy Patterson, Diane Porter, Wendell Schmitz, and Paul Skrade provided reports that were used in the species accounts.

*Tufted Titmouse, near YMCA
Camp, Boone, 15 January
2009. Photograph by James
Moreland, Boone, IA.*



*Red-shouldered Hawk, two miles east of Don
Williams, Boone, 3 December 2008. Photo-
graph by James Moreland, Boone, IA.*



*Rough-legged Hawk light morph, Squaw Creek
Park, Linn, 22 January 2009. Photograph by
Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*



White-winged Crossbill, Hampton Cemetery, Franklin, 19 February 2009. Photograph by James Moreland, Boone, IA.



Red-tailed Hawk, below Saylorville dam, Polk, 28 February 2009. Photograph by James Moreland, Boone, IA.

*Pair of eagles
building nest, Don
Williams Lake,
Boone, 6 January
2009. Photograph
by James Moreland,
Boone, IA.*



*Short-eared
Owl, Neal
Smith NWR,
Jasper, 25
January 2009.
Photograph by
Jay Gilliam,
Norwalk, IA.*



*Northern Saw-whet Owl along
Des Moines River near Boone,
Boone, 19 February 2009.
Photograph by James More-
land, Boone, IA.*



*Horned Lark, near Stanhope,
Hamilton, 24 December
2008. Photograph by Stephen
J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



White-winged Crossbill male, Evergreen Cemetery in Britt, Hancock, 22 February 2009. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Cooper's Hawk, Ames, Story, 10 December 2008. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Trumpeter Swan, 24 December 2008, Beemer's Pond, Hamilton. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Trumpeter Swans, Des Moines River in Pleasant Hill, Polk, 8 January 2009, taken from 2000 feet altitude by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



*Greater White-fronted
Goose, Big Marsh, Butler,
15 February 2009.
Photograph by Stephen J.
Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Long-tailed Duck, below Red Rock Reservoir dam, Marion, 20 December
2008. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Pine Siskin, Hamp-
ton, Franklin, 15
February 2009. Photo-
graph by Stephen J.
Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Common Redpoll, Corpus Christi Cemetery, Fort Dodge, Webster, 8 February
2009. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Female White-winged Crossbill, Corpus Christi Cemetery, Fort Dodge, Webster, 7 February 2009. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hampton, Franklin, 15 February 2009. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



White-breasted Nuthatch, north of Boone, Boone, 25 January 2009. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



*Winter Wren, Brookside Park, Story, 20 April 2009.
Photograph by Torre Hovick, Boone, IA.*



Ring-necked Pheasant, east of Ames, Story, 30 January 2009. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2008–2009

Chris Caster

Sincere apologies to Scott Moats and his crew on the Westfield CBC for the omission of their data from the 2007–2008 count report, as it was received and simply lost in the shuffle. The Westfield data and last season's data from the two Clayton County counts, previously lost in cyberspace, have been added to the historical record. Notably, the Westfield count recorded six Black-billed Magpies last year. This season they recorded two, making it five years running and seven of the last nine. Also notable from last season, Westfield reported a Merlin, a Northern Goshawk, and two Townsend's Solitaires.

An even 50 counts were held this season (Table 1). We lost two of our southern counts this year, as the Union County and Siam-Hopkins counts were not run, but this was somewhat offset by the return of the Wapello County count. Both river regions and the northern third were bolstered by the inclusion of the Westfield and two Clayton County counts. And the middle third added the new Buchanan County count.

By a twist of the calendar Saturday, December 13th was unavailable as it fell outside the official count period set by the National Audubon Society. Like last season, the count period was wild and wooly. As it happened, December 14th proved to be the most noteworthy temperature event of the entire year^a. Afternoon temperatures ranged from the upper 30s in the northwest to the low 60s in the southeast, before a very strong cold front blew through. The warm southerly winds responsible for record late Tree Swallows on the Rathbun and Iowa City counts were replaced with an arctic blast. The Sioux City count went from 32 to a -1 degree that day. The Saylorville count went from 55 to 8 degrees. Precipitation events occurred nearly every other day, which significantly impacted many counts, by forcing postponements, limiting time in the field, and icing roads. Snow cover was significant on most of the northeastern counts. Despite the difficulties, the effort and numbers produced statewide was consistent with past years.

The total species count this season was 136, which is slightly above the 10-year average. The total number of birds counted, however, was 414,800, the third lowest count total of the past ten, largely explained by the dearth of waterfowl. Even with a high of only 13 degrees, Keokuk still had the high count with 90 species, a position it has now held in seven of the last eight counts. Other high counts included Saylorville (76), Rathbun (75), Davenport (74), and Red Rock (70). De Soto (62) led the Missouri River counts and Decorah (53) led the northern third.

The average count this year had 12 people, 5.5 field parties, and found 52.5 species.

^a Iowa Preliminary Monthly Weather Summary—December 2008, Harry J. Hillaker, State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

REGULAR SPECIES

Thirteen species totaled record numbers this season. It was a generally poor season for any birds dependent on water habitats. It was a somewhat average year for raptors and owls. It was a big year for frugivorous birds and an above average year for finches, although the winter invasion of Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills hadn't yet occurred. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer count are shown in Table 3.

Other than a count week bird at Shenandoah, Greater White-fronted Geese had all moved south. Snow Geese (24) were below thirty birds for the second straight year. The 10-year average is 25,518. Ross's Geese (12) were reported from three counts with nine at Saylorville. Cackling Geese (172) and Canada Geese (55,546) were below average. A good number of Trumpeter Swans (67) stuck around. Seventeen on the Lost Nation count were the high again this year. Tundra Swans (2) were found at Andalusia and Keokuk. Puddle ducks were quite scarce this year. Only Mallards (32,844), which generally average over 70,000 birds, were typically seen.

Diving ducks were found in decent numbers on the Mississippi R and reservoir counts. Canvasbacks (24,284) were in above average numbers, and as usual, nearly all at Keokuk. Greater Scaup (178) were all at Keokuk. Lesser Scaup (244) were the scarcest in eight years. Common Goldeneye (4,837) numbers were very average. A single Surf Scoter was at Keokuk. Long-tailed Ducks (6) were reported from Clinton, Keokuk, and Red Rock. Mergansers and Ruddy Ducks were comparatively scarce.

It was an average year finding Gray Partridges (58). We had the snow cover, but difficult conditions in the field likely hampered efforts. Only four counts reported them and one of those had count week birds. Ring-necked Pheasants (1,041) and Wild Turkey (1,961) were in below average numbers. Decorah again came through with our only Ruffed Grouse (3). Northern Bobwhite (105) was average and Lamoni had the high for the third straight year with 39 birds.

A Common Loon was at Rathbun. Pied-billed Grebes (3) were found on only two counts. Strangely, American White Pelicans (474) were found in unprecedented numbers. They were reported on five counts with 433 of those at Keokuk. Double-crested Cormorants (29) were uncommon and Great Blue Herons (65) were well below average.

Bald Eagles (4,797) were down somewhat from last year's record numbers. Northern Harriers (57) were below average. Sharp-shinned Hawks (61) and Cooper's Hawks (84) were about average. Like last season, single Northern Goshawks were reported from four counts. It was another good year for Red-shouldered Hawks (13) and they were found on six counts. Red-tailed Hawks (1,638) fell below average, but Rough-legged Hawks (238) were reported in record numbers. Single Golden Eagles were reported from three counts. American Kestrels (367) numbers fell even lower this season. This was the second lowest total in twenty years. Ten counts reported Merlin (14) as they continue to be found in good numbers. Des Moines had four. A lone Peregrine Falcon was at Burlington. An amazing three counts reported Prairie Falcons.

American Coots (56) went the way of the puddle ducks. Killdeer (10) were at the lowest in eleven years. Wilson's Snipes (18) have been getting steadily harder to find in recent years. Ring-billed Gulls (16,938) and Herring Gulls (1,163) were well below average. Only

two Thayer's Gulls were reported from Keokuk. Glaucous Gulls (5) were found at Muscatine and Keokuk. A single Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Andalusia.

Rock Pigeons (11,009) may have the most stable early winter numbers of any Iowa bird. Eurasian Collared-Doves (220) had the lowest total in four years and Mourning Doves (4,148) fell off last year's record high by over fifty percent.

Eastern Screech-Owls (64) had their poorest showing in twenty years. This year 87.75 hours of owling were reported. Last season 118 screech-owls were recorded in 100 hours of owling. Great Horned Owls (122), Barred Owls (112), and Long-eared Owls (34) all had below average counts. Conversely, Short-eared Owls (21) had a second straight year of numbers more than double the ten-year average. Northern Saw-whet Owls (5) fell to very average numbers following last season's record high of sixteen.

Belted Kingfishers (65) had the lowest total in eight years. Red-headed, Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers all had at least average years. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (104) flew off the chart this year. The previous high count had been thirty-eight. And in a sharp reversal from last year's count, Northern Flickers (1,318) also set a new record, more than double the ten-year average.

Northern Shrikes (43) were well above average, although far short of last season's record 109 birds. Loggerhead Shrikes (6) were about average. Corvids were also about average. Horned Larks (7,286) had their best count in eight years. Black-capped Chickadee (4,730) numbers were at the lowest in over twenty years. Tufted Titmouse (654) numbers were not far behind as they had the second lowest total in twenty years. Red-breasted Nuthatches (90) fell off substantially from last season's eruption. White-breasted Nuthatches (2,497) were below average. Brown Creepers (369) were at a six-year high. Lamoni had forty-six. Carolina Wrens (90) returned to average numbers, as did Winter Wrens (34). Golden-Crowned Kinglets (38) were uncommon, while Ruby-crowned Kinglets (3) were right at the average.

The frugivores flourished. With the possible exception of Brown Thrasher, winter numbers are driven almost solely by food availability. Cold weather is relatively unimportant. The winter of 2008–2009 saw exceptional food for these species in the form of cedar berries, crabapples, hackberries, honeysuckle, and other fruit, and they wintered in Iowa in unprecedented numbers. (S. Dinsmore and B. Ehresman, pers. comm.) Eastern Bluebirds (1,269), Hermit Thrushes (45), American Robins (15,035) all set record highs. Northern Mockingbirds (20) surpassed the record-high sixteen from two years ago. An astonishing ten mockingbirds were on the Lamoni count. A Brown Thrasher was at Decorah. Cedar Waxwings (5,987) and Yellow-rumped Warblers (127) also set new records. European Starlings (50,418) were somewhat below average. Davenport was again far-and-away "Iowa's Starling Capitol" with 6,477 birds.

Sparrow numbers were generally good. Six Spotted Towhees and six Eastern Towhees were reported. American Tree Sparrow (9,559), Field Sparrows (6), Fox Sparrows (23), and Song Sparrows (661) were all about average. However Swamp Sparrows (56) had the lowest count in eighteen years. An amazing twelve Lincoln's Sparrows were on the Boone count and another bird was at Omaha. White-throated Sparrows (555) and White-crowned Sparrows (93) were found in numbers well above average, while Harris's Sparrows (64) were well below average. Dark-eyed Juncos (24,051), Lapland Longspurs (2,551), and

Snow Buntings (794) were all well-above average. It was just an average year for Northern Cardinals (6,085).

Icterids were present in good numbers. Red-winged Blackbirds (7,228), meadowlarks (286), Rusty Blackbirds (130), and Common Grackles (707) were all average or above. Brewer's Blackbirds (4) were reported from Spirit Lake and Red Rock. Brown-headed Cowbirds (3,662) were found in record numbers.

Purple Finches (709) and House Finches (2,769) were both about average. Common Redpolls (26) had the highest total in nine years. Fifteen were at Amana and seven at Dallas County. Pine Siskins (907) had the highest total in fourteen years and were reported from over 80% of the counts. American Goldfinches (5,761) were also abundant. Two White-winged Crossbills were at Cedar Rapids and one was at Red Rock. A crossbill species was also at Iowa City. House Sparrows (19,639) were at the lowest total in over twenty years. They have seen a steady decline in the CBC since setting a high of 69,502 birds in 1989–1990. However Eurasian Tree Sparrows (1,514) were again found in record numbers. West Mercer County had 626 and Keokuk had 408 of those. Thirty-three at Princeton and two at Amana were the extralimital birds.

NOTABLE MISSES

The most notable miss was surely Greater White-fronted Goose, reported on each of the previous ten counts. Also missed were Savannah Sparrow (8 of last 10), Bonaparte's Gull, Marsh Wren (7 of last 10), White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Gray Catbird (6 of last 10,) Mute Swan, Horned Grebe, Great-tailed Grackle (5 of last 10), Blue-winged Teal, Sandhill Crane, Snowy Owl, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red Crossbill (4 of last 10).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

There were some extremely exciting birds this year, including four, which to my knowledge were new to the CBC. Six Tree Swallows were at Iowa City and three at Rathbun all on 14 December, a record late date by nine days. A Cinnamon Teal was at Sioux City, also on the 14th, a record late date by fifteen days. A Barn Owl was a heard bird on the Lost Nation count and responded to a tape. An Indigo Bunting was also new to the CBC on the Keokuk count, but was actually found across the state line in Missouri on the 15th. The record late date in Iowa is still 18 November from 1928. Also on the Lost Nation count, a Pine Warbler was the first since 1994–1995. Eight Bohemian Waxwings at Ames was the most since 1986–1987. It has now been reported on six counts since that time. A Vesper Sparrow was at Wapello County. Fifteen years ago it would have been rated a notable miss, but they have now only been seen on three of the last twelve counts. Other great birds included a Turkey Vulture at Iowa City and an American Pipit at Clinton and the three previously mentioned Prairie Falcons at DeSoto, Cherokee, and Lamoni.

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Table I. Site Data for 2008–2009 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Field Obs	Pts	Hr	Miles Car Ft	Hr	Owling Mi	Hr	Feeder Pt	Hr	Temp L	Depth H	Snow Depth	Wind
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River Forest	30-Dec	48	3,676	6	5	33	279	6	2	15	1	1	19	25	15	ESE 5-20
2. SE Clayton County	5-Jan	30	997	3	2	12.5	139	3.5	1	10	1	1.5	-7	15	7	NW 10
3. Dubuque	3-Jan	42	3,956	11	7	27.5	241	12	0	0	3	3	17	31	3	E 10-18
4. Green Island	19-Dec	64	6,671	8	5	38.5	273.7	2.75	1.75	20	0	0	15	27	8	NE 4-12
5. Clinton	18-Dec	66	5,064	10	4	34	313	2.75	3.75	38	6	6	2	26	4	S 0-5
6. Princeton	22-Dec	65	5,677	8	4	35.75	382	4	4	38	1	1	-6	8	10	NW 5-15
7. Davenport	14-Dec	74	27,535	16	6	50	7.75	419	6.75	64	10	17	34	55	0	S 15-30
8. Andalusia	2-Jan	64	5,657	7	3	29.75	308	4	4.25	65	0	0	19	30	0	N 0-10
9. Muscatine	21-Dec	66	4,562	11	4	26.5	244	5.5	1.25	17	11	14	-6	5	8	W 25-30
10. West Mercer County	23-Dec	67	5,593	8	5	40.25	291	6.5	4.25	38	0	0	16	28	6	E 10-30
11. Burlington	20-Dec	66	6,386	11	4	37	227	25	1	10	0	0	32	33	3	S 5-10
12. Keokuk	15-Dec	90	69,406	9	5	46	279	14	0.25	2	0	0	6	13	1	NW 5-15
MISSOURI RIVER																
13. Westfield	4-Jan	34	1,578	7	2	25	239	6	1	5	4	9.5	1	20	6	N 5-15
14. Sioux City	14-Dec	56	9,469	11	7	33	438	7	1	1	4	8	-1	32	2	NW 25-37
15. De Soto NWR	27-Dec	62	13,435	20	10	67.5	492.5	30.5	1.5	20	0	0	30	38	2	NW 3-13
16. Omaha	28-Dec	60	9,079	23	8	49	326.5	18.5	1.5	8	2	9	17	38	trace	NW 0-5
NORTHERN THIRD																
17. NW Clayton County	3-Jan	35	1,740	2	2	9.75	94	0.5	0	0	2	2.5	5	21	4	SW 5
18. Decorah	27-Dec	53	5,398	7	4	27	249	3	1	5	2	7	23	33	10	NW 5-20
19. Bremer County	20-Dec	49	3,473	7	5	28	352	7	0	0	0	0	-5	5	13	NW 5-25
20. Mason City	27-Dec	44	11,602	9	6	49	424	12.5	2	1.5	8	10	9	23	18	W 5-10
21. Spirit Lake	20-Dec	40	2,764	2	1	4	93	0	0	0	33	9	7	15	6	NW 15-40
22. Humboldt County	31-Dec	26	2,001	1	1	10.75	111.4	7	1.5	5	0	0	4	15	3	S 0-2
23. Cherokee	14-Dec	46	3,933	7	4	27.5	318	1	1	11	4	6	-2	25	1	NNW 20-35

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Field Obs	Field Pts	Field Hr	Miles Car Ft	Owling Hr	Owling Mi	Feeder Pt	Feeder Hr	Temp L	Temp H	Snow Depth	Wind
MIDDLE THIRD															
24. Lost Nation	17-Dec	60	7,275	14	5	30.5	448	6	2.25	15	0	0	4	15	10
25. North Linn	30-Dec	59	4,109	7	4	31	312	2.5	1.25	12	0	0	22	32	1
26. Cedar Rapids	20-Dec	65	8,240	17	9	67.95	390	5.5	1.75	20	1	2	24	30	6
27. Iowa City	14-Dec	61	7,056	38	13	68.5	543	21.5	1.5	16	13	24.5	16	57	0
28. Amana	27-Dec	39	1,242	9	3	16	40	1	2	6	0	0	30	36	1.5
29. Buchanan County	4-Jan	33	1,719	5	3	20	254	1	0	0	1	0.5	10	31	4
30. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	28-Dec	54	18,622	8	7	29	273	9	0	0	0	0	14	32	6
31. Eldora-Union	31-Dec	36	575	3	2	14	136	2.5	1	8	1	8	-1	15	4
32. Marshalltown	5-Jan	34	2,269	7	4	12	156	0	0	0	3	10	15	32	0
33. Grinnell	20-Dec	29	675	8	3	24	40	12	0	0	2	18	13	27	4
34. Ames	20-Dec	59	20,478	33	17	77	287	36	4	25	11	26	4	28	5
35. Sayerville Reservoir	14-Dec	76	21,113	36	15	93.75	941	40.5	6	40	0	0	8	55	4
36. Des Moines	27-Dec	59	20,543	9	6	50	360	6	0.25	2	2	10	23	59	0
37. Neal Smith NWR	3-Jan	37	1,389	19	7	26.75	163	17.5	1.2	2	2	12	25	32	6
38. SE Webster County	27-Dec	48	1,634	12	4	20	200	5	0	0	2	6	22	25	6
39. Boone County	3-Jan	55	9,826	36	18	88.25	409	57	7	53	14	47	25	32	5
40. Jamaica	16-Dec	45	9,137	5	4	14	166	6	1	15	0	0	1	4	3
41. Dallas County	20-Dec	54	3,799	16	6	29.5	242	10	0	0	8	16.5	-6	23	6
42. Sac County	3-Jan	29	1,126	11	5	15	102	3	0	0	3	15	20	31	0
43. Carroll County	4-Jan	39	2,514	4	2	12	168	3	0	0	3	8	2	17	na
44. Ida County	27-Dec	46	3,824	12	5	30	180	12	1.5	8	5	14	15	22	3
SOUTHERN THIRD															
45. Wapello County	22-Dec	42	3,851	3	2	12	69	2	0	0	1	3	-10	15	2
46. Red Rock Reservoir	20-Dec	70	9,991	13	6	34	207	12	1	11	1	0.16	3	20	3
47. Rathbun Reservoir	14-Dec	75	26,638	11	6	53	550	7	5.5	64	4	7	15	47	1.5
48. Lamoni	28-Dec	64	6,419	20	8	70	191	84.25	6	10	2	8.5	18	35	0.5
49. Taylor County	27-Dec	52	3,420	6	3	24	213	10	0	0	1	8	33	48	0
50. Shenandoah	20-Dec	56	7,664	13	5	77.5	204	6	1.5	9	5	14	5	24	3
TOTALS															
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136 414,800															

NW 0-5
NW 5-15
NW 15-20
NW 5-15, rain
NW 15-20
NW 5-15
NW 5

NW 0-5, rain
NW 15-32
NW 3-
N 5-40
NW 10-35
NW 10-26
E 7-25
NW 5-10
E 6-23
E 8-12
W 12-37
NW 0-5
WNW 3-7
NW 10-25

calm
N 5-25
SSW, NNW 15-40
S 0-5
NW 10-15
N 2-25

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2008–2009

Location	Sn Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Wo Du	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma	No Pi	Gr Wi Te
MISSISSIPPI RIVER										
1. Yellow River Forest					3		2	331		
2. SE Clayton County										
3. Dubuque			412				2	501		
4. Green Island			72					14		
5. Clinton			22				7	209		
6. Princeton	3	794	8					212		
7. Davenport	5	3684	6	1			3	1192	1	
8. Andalusia		924	1					346		
9. Muscatine		952						54		
10. West Mercer County		22						22		
11. Burlington	2	1252		1				41		
12. Keokuk	1	88	6296		3		11	5174	1	3
Subtotals	1	98	14430	15	8	0	27	8096	2	3
MISSOURI RIVER										
13. Westfield										
14. Sioux City	5	1	801					6899	1	3
15. De Soto NWR			64					152		
16. Omaha			1875					220		12
Subtotals	5	1	2740	0	0	0	0	7271	1	15
NORTHERN THIRD										
17. NW Clayton County										
18. Decorah			281					46		
19. Bremer County			6					2		
20. Mason City			271	6			2	1502		
21. Spirit Lake			651					19		
22. Humboldt County			51					101		
23. Cherokee										
Subtotals	0	0	1260	6	0	0	2	1670	0	0
MIDDLE THIRD										
24. Lost Nation			299	17				1		
25. North Linn			35					38		
26. Cedar Rapids	2		1091				3	841		
27. Iowa City			1394					196		
28. Amana										
29. Buchanan County			4		1			127		
30. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			4344	10			2	1210		
31. Eldora-Union			2							
32. Marshalltown			50					25		
33. Grinnell			13					24		
34. Ames	cw		83					28		
35. Saylorville Reservoir	1	43	7509		2	1	2	1731	3	3
36. Des Moines	4	4	4648	1			1	1239		
37. Neal Smith NWR										
38. SE Webster County		1	48	15			1	42		
39. Boone County			422							
40. Jamaica	6	14	6840					209		
41. Dallas County			44					30		
42. Sac County			51					95		
43. Carroll County			cw							
44. Ida County			49		1			44		
Subtotals	11	64	26926	43	3	2	9	5880	3	4
SOUTHERN THIRD										
45. Wapello County	1	1	1200					200		
46. Red Rock Reservoir	4		4712	1			13	47		
47. Rathbun Reservoir	1	6	3052			1		8811		2
48. Lamoni			146					2		
49. Taylor County		2	240							
50. Shenandoah	1	cw	840	2		cw		867		
Subtotals	7	9	10190	3	0	3	13	9927	0	2
TOTALS	24	172	55546	67	11	3	51	32844	6	24

	96		50	2	1
	27	97	27	1	3
23	49	11	11	1	
cw	53	71	6		cw
	24	2	3		
			2	1	
			6		
0	0	0	0	5	1
0	0	23	354	190	5
0	0	0	0	0	5
0	0	0	0	0	5
05	5				

2	67	7	50	129	73
			31	37	33
			1	67	50
			4	72	104
			3	12	7
				28	12
				23	10
			1	7	9
				14	9
				8	9
				5	1
			27	165	8
				20	1
			5	10	3
				16	82
			99		4
				16	2
			27		1
				13	10
				4	1
			1	49	34
					31
					4
			4		
				48	1
				27	1
			cw		2
				2	9
					1
				3	2
					3
				41	1
				34	2

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2008–2009

Location	Co Ha	No Go	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	bu sp	Am Ke	Me	Am Co	Am Ki	Wi Sn
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	1	1		26	7		3				
2. SE Clayton County				5	5		2				
3. Dubuque	2			35	7		11				
4. Green Island	4		2	31	9		6				
5. Clinton	2			40	11		6		3		1
6. Princeton	2			34	10		5				
7. Davenport	1			53	1		14				
8. Andalusia	1			41	18		10				
9. Muscatine	2			21	3		3				
10. West Mercer County	3			36	9		12	1	5		2
11. Burlington				93	1		16				3
12. Keokuk	4			31	3		12	1	3		3
Subtotals	22	1	3	446	84	0	100	2	3	8	9
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield					18	4	3				
14. Sioux City	2				18	2					
15. De Soto NWR	2				75	6	1	9			
16. Omaha	2				96	4		8	1		
Subtotals	6	0	0	207	16	1	20	1	50	0	0
NORTHERN THIRD											
17. NW Clayton County	2				22	6		5			
18. Decorah					15	6		6			
19. Bremer County	2		2		19	5		4			
20. Mason City	1				17	1		1			
21. Spirit Lake	1							1			
22. Humboldt County					2						
23. Cherokee					17	8		6			
Subtotals	6	0	2	92	26	0	22	1	0	0	1
MIDDLE THIRD											
24. Lost Nation	3	1		62	5		23				
25. North Linn	1			29	12		25				
26. Cedar Rapids	3			67	7		20				2
27. Iowa City	3			69	5	1	22	1			
28. Amana				8	1		1				
29. Buchanan County	2				16	6		4			
30. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	4	1	5	31	5			3			
31. Eldora-Union	1			9	2			4			
32. Marshalltown	2		1	32		2		8			
33. Grinnell				5				2			
34. Ames	4			45	2		7	2			
35. Saylorville Reservoir	6			68	12		15	1			
36. Des Moines	2			30	1		7	4			
37. Neal Smith NWR	2			23	4		1				
38. SE Webster County	1			17	2		3				
39. Boone County	2			60	8	1	3				
40. Jamaica	1			4	3		1				4
41. Dallas County	3			18	3		1				
42. Sac County				5	1						
43. Carroll County	2			21	1		4				
44. Ida County	3			19			1				
Subtotals	45	2	6	638	80	4	154	9	1	2	5
SOUTHERN THIRD											
45. Wapello County					15	1		6			
46. Red Rock Reservoir	1		2	49				5			
47. Rathbun Reservoir		1		23	2		21		2		
48. Lamoni	2			77	21		25	1			
49. Taylor County	1			66	5	4	12				
50. Shenandoah	1			25	3		2				
Subtotals	5	1	2	255	32	4	71	1	2	0	3
TOTALS	84	4	13	1638	238	9	367	14	56	10	18

Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh No Ea S-w Ow Ow	Re Be Ki	Ye Be Wo	Ye Be Sa
			230	17	49	1	2		2	5	43	
			12		48		2	1		1	23	
			150		61				2	4	74	2
			143		162	2	4	1	2	9	66	6
			283		305	7	6	3	3	1	50	3
			162	3	157	3	4	4	1	2	32	4
1440	153		776		333	1	5	5		3	68	7
61	11		133		86	5	2	9		2	51	8
48	9		11		146	2	3	1		2	41	3
1			81	1	347	2	4	2		3	49	11
17			559	1	98	2	1	2		3	25	2
9692	442		142	5	248	1			3	2	60	10
11259	615	2682	27	2040	26	31	31	2	4	1	24	49
											582	56
			128	2	4		2				20	
			24		1	1	5		1		6	
			145	2	10		1	3		cw	8	86
			178		24	2	1	4	2	15	157	cw
0	0	475	4	39	3	9	7	1	0	0	3	23
											269	1
			18		46	1	2				13	
			272		33	2	1			6	4	36
			76	4	49		2			2	14	1
			426		18	2	3	1	1		1	28
			5	14	5						1	31
			380		6							5
			31	8	1	1	2					23
0	0	1208	32	152	6	7	5	1	0	0	7	8
											150	2
			211		210	4	8	1	1	2	28	39
			162	3	30	1	2	3	1	1	5	38
			369		192	4	7	3		1	2	54
			202		146		1	2	3	6	51	2
			43		60	1	1		1	13	5	2
			75	5	13						9	
			499		190		1	6		1	22	1
			3		15		3				12	1
			139		51	1					10	6
					7							
20	2	243	4	245	1	9	5	12	1	4	140	8
1		1650	2	75	3	6	15		2	3	113	2
		761	5	64		1					61	
		24	cw	37		4			2	2	25	
		72		19	1						4	
		152	7	86	3	2	7		2	6	166	7
		37	2	3	3					1	9	10
		142	9	163		1	3		4	2	50	1
		12								2	11	
		281	28	2	1	3		1	cw		14	cw
		160	59	4	3	1		9	3	1		16
39	2	5237	124	1612	23	51	52	23	10	4	25	76
											856	30
			3		1005		33				20	20
			1		49	5	114			1	56	1
5636	545	17	7	2	4	1		2	3	1	24	4
		145	13	131	2	11	6	5	6	15	105	7
		167	4	3		2				22	40	3
		24	4	22		6	5		1		19	
5640	546	1407	33	305	6	24	17	7	7	0	6	59
16938	1163	11009	220	4148	64	122	112	34	21	5	65	215
											2121	104

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2008–2009

Location	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fi	Pi Wo	Lo Sh	No Sh	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bi Ca Ch
MISSISSIPPI RIVER										
1. Yellow River Forest	29	10	3	6		3	94	222	11	67
2. SE Clayton County	18	1	2	1			16	46		44
3. Dubuque	49	11	3				43	181		108
4. Green Island	46	12	34	4		4	158	215	133	117
5. Clinton	64	15	14	3		1	120	121	131	137
6. Princeton	46	9	19	1			61	52	99	126
7. Davenport	87	18	21	3	1		97	164	3	243
8. Andalusia	54	12	16	9			61	85	4	119
9. Muscatine	62	16	18	2			54	44	59	76
10. West Mercer County	63	8	21	7		1	106	81	413	75
11. Burlington	29	6	12	6			40	48	375	55
12. Keokuk	67	7	38	8			80	10000	244	182
Subtotals	614	125	201	50	1	9	930	11259	1472	1349
MISSOURI RIVER										
13. Westfield	38	2	19			1	40	13	12	37
14. Sioux City	28	7	17				32	28	97	47
15. De Soto NWR	73	7	117				166	127	66	208
16. Omaha	164	27	169	3			152	60	6	354
Subtotals	303	43	322	3	0	1	390	228	181	646
NORTHERN THIRD										
17. NW Clayton County	18	6	3	2			39	119	9	36
18. Decorah	42	11	4	3		1	181	329	27	65
19. Bremer County	25	4	9	1		3	73	208	189	32
20. Mason City	50	15	1			2	94	6164	13	87
21. Spirit Lake	75	34	3				73	5	119	194
22. Humboldt County	8	2					10	18	3	14
23. Cherokee	26	9	15			1	54	227	907	13
Subtotals	244	81	35	6	0	7	524	7070	1267	441
MIDDLE THIRD										
24. Lost Nation	68	82	25	11			187	127	223	103
25. North Linn	32	17	16	5		4	140	157	43	142
26. Cedar Rapids	97	18	13	2		1	74	483	40	190
27. Iowa City	83	17	30	4	1	3	87	762	4	171
28. Amana	21		16				24	14	6	23
29. Buchanan County	10	4	4				34	108	29	27
30. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	32	6	15	1		2	50	9489	13	92
31. Eldora-Union	11	1	1	1		1	14	14	2	11
32. Marshalltown	23	7	3	1			29	141	1	20
33. Grinnell	9	3	4				22	4	15	21
34. Ames	189	52	61			cw	199	11900	455	306
35. Saylorville Reservoir	102	24	114	1		6	134	380	64	189
36. Des Moines	65	14	60				39	10000	2	80
37. Neal Smith NWR	25	6	4				23	283		22
38. SE Webster County	18	2	3	1		1	52	273	16	22
39. Boone County	151	64	54	8		3	218	498	9	363
40. Jamaica	17	2	11				19	40	325	13
41. Dallas County	68	9	27				91	46	934	75
42. Sac County	17	4	1				28	10		21
43. Carroll County	27	6	3				37	28	20	20
44. Ida County	22	9	22			3	102	58	72	10
Subtotals	1087	347	487	35	1	24	1603	34815	2273	1921
SOUTHERN THIRD										
45. Wapello County	18	4	17		1		53	32	16	45
46. Red Rock Reservoir	54	14	55			1	61	70	508	76
47. Rathbun Reservoir	21	4	30	1	1	1	56	85	38	46
48. Lamoni	80	42	116	8			272	508	186	123
49. Taylor County	38	10	44		1		134	143	4	76
50. Shenandoah	18	5	11		1		45	31	1341	7
Subtotals	229	79	273	9	4	2	621	869	2093	373
TOTALS	2477	675	1318	103	6	43	4068	54241	7286	4730

Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	No Mo	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ye Ru Wa	Sp To
18		44	2			21		1	155		374	195	5	
15		21	5								238			
20	2	49	5			12			243		445	101		
14		64	16		1	2	29	10	328	1	1522	86	11	
20	3	70	15	1	1	1	54	3	43		1149	46	5	
10	4	40	11			1	21	2	110		738	54	3	
48		125	26	9	2	3	15			330		6477	49	1
20	5	82	13		1	3	57	7	14	1	1741	12		
38		40	3	2			14			59		455	73	
29	2	41	7	3	1	2	17		97		714	217		
18	4	23	4	7	2	3	21		390		366	175	2	
34	1	31	12	21		2	23	3	208	1	1563	509	1	
284	21	630	119	43	8	17	284	26	1977	3	15782	1517	28	0
		25					74		36		308	29		
	1	14	2		1		6		92		260	12		
17	1	98	8	1			176	2	4018	1	3807	301	3	1
34		342	20	16	2		130		696		1364	272	7	2
51	2	479	30	17	3	0	386	2	4842	1	5739	614	10	4
		21	2						12		287			1
15		37	3				2		71		994	57	3	
		19	1						2		422	11		
		37	7				cw		23		1204	2		
10		88	6							53				
		9	4						10		1040			
	1	13	1						703	0	210	38	1	
15	11	224	24	0	0	0	21	0	821	0	4210	108	4	1
16	4	52	25		1	3	11	6	6		1606	100		
12	7	64	7	1	1	1	7	1	74		1077	55	10	
15		48	8	1	2	1	10		29		981	20	2	
34	8	59	4	3	1		20	3	50		858	879	1	
		15					11	1	10		175	18		
		6	3							376				
		24	2	1			3		30		601	78		
		11							6		191	24		
		11					4		2		1209			
		9							8		250	15		
5		151	41	6	2	2	17	1	217		2247	164		
10	6	64	11	1	1	2	53		3337		2441	436	10	
12		67	18	4			28		523		1500	118		
		24	3				8		28		262			
		25	1				14	1	29	1	390			
64	11	202	11	1	2		42	2	1229		2447	621		
6		6					2		2		94	5		
8		32		1			33		56		209	74		
	8	21								422				
		18	1						47		1042	13		
	1	27	3						55		1740	71		
182	45	936	138	18	11	7	263	15	5738	1	20118	2691	23	1
49		10					2		119		325	64		
2	7	40	6	1			5	60	2	331	1339	189	4	
9	2	20	2	2			4	15		1	650	47	5	
55		114	46	7	2	5	159		654	10	618	438	35	
7	2	40	4				56		320	5	272	288	18	
		4	cw	2			21		232		1365	31		
122	11	228	58	12	2	14	313	2	1657	15	4569	1057	62	0
654	90	2497	369	90	24	38	1269	45	15035	20	50418	5987	127	6

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2008–2009

Location	Ea To	Am Sp	Tr Sp	Fi Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest		168				10				1	673
2. SE Clayton County						1					76
3. Dubuque		66						21		1	578
4. Green Island	cw	569		1	32	2	13		3	1169	
5. Clinton		595			17		2				502
6. Princeton		86				2	2				447
7. Davenport	1	46	2		45	2	37		1	419	
8. Andalusia		118	2		7	1	11				238
9. Muscatine		178		3	18	1	11		9	440	
10. West Mercer County		65			22	5	10		2	673	
11. Burlington		130		1	27	11	30		3	254	
12. Keokuk		330		2	65	4	34				928
Subtotals	1	2351	4	7	246	28	169	0	21	6397	
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield		98						1			211
14. Sioux City	1	41		1	2				1	6	360
15. De Soto NWR	2	626			4		22	17	3	1031	
16. Omaha		231			21	1	12	11	4	785	
Subtotals	3	996	0	1	27	1	35	29	13	2387	
NORTHERN THIRD											
17. NW Clayton County		96				3					367
18. Decorah		968				6	1	2		1	841
19. Bremer County		302				9		1			637
20. Mason City		140		1	8						468
21. Spirit Lake		3									266
22. Humboldt County						1					72
23. Cherokee		56				3		4			393
Subtotals	0	1565	0	1	27	4	5	5	2	3044	
MIDDLE THIRD											
24. Lost Nation		257			120	12	24		15	1458	
25. North Linn		105			3	1	35				434
26. Cedar Rapids		383	1		18	1	33		8	1325	
27. Iowa City		122		1	12	1	28		7	331	
28. Amana		250			80		5		10	240	
29. Buchanan County		40				2					309
30. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		117			3			1			483
31. Eldora-Union		10			4			2			47
32. Marshalltown		10									105
33. Grinnell	1	4	1								115
34. Ames		276				5	1	44	1	937	
35. Saylorville Reservoir		301		1	10	1	44			1083	
36. Des Moines		18		1	23	3	38				214
37. Neal Smith NWR		126			6	1					142
38. SE Webster County		71			6				2	155	
39. Boone County		196	3	3			5	9		1247	
40. Jamaica		155			2						380
41. Dallas County	1	218			13		3	4		309	
42. Sac County		3						3	1	114	
43. Carroll County		1					1	1			197
44. Ida County		55						2			364
Subtotals	2	2718	2	6	310	21	265	20	43	9989	
SOUTHERN THIRD											
45. Wapello County		38			2			1			207
46. Red Rock Reservoir		102			24		38				581
47. Rathbun Reservoir		201			3		1				258
48. Lamoni		321	5	12	1	8					523
49. Taylor County		109	1	5			25	1	8	222	
50. Shenandoah		1158	2	5	1	8	9	6			443
Subtotals	0	1929	0	8	51	2	81	10	14	2234	
TOTALS	6	9559	6	23	661	56	555	64	93	24051	

La Lo	Sn Bu	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	me sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Co Re	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp	
		97					8	30		3	101	374			
		22					2	70			118	151			
		123					6	84		51	164	222			
9	80	124	9			cw	15	61		1	103	427			
2	10	191	8	5		1	19	96		4	50	303			
4	8	166	4			8	12	26		5	69	761	33		
		306	5171		1	641	3531	12	84		75	163	1053	2	
		108	2				1	24	21		28	65	652	234	
23	122	202	1			1	10	138	1	1	204	295	119		
19	45	207	96			2	15	13		1	65	817	626		
224	6	182			1	7	4	11		12	32	326	90		
41		267	4			2	6	42		5	156	255	408		
322	271	1995	5291	4	7	653	3548	133	676	1	186	1290	5636	1512	
		17							18		3	186	180		
90		37					7	50		48	104	124			
4		83	805	39	92	3	1	32	31	cw	4	256	243		
		194	20	25		1	16	126		54	360	461			
94	0	331	825	64	92	4	1	55	225	0	109	906	1008	0	
		25					3	17		2	80	328			
9	10	119					19	84	2	25	249	348			
68	180	112	1			1	9	25	1	44	87	713			
		76	1				3	131		60	168	435			
23	31	36	49		1	1	5	96		1	150	579			
		18	1					5		2	235				
415	20	13	46		1		1	20	129	3	21	187	264		
515	241	399	98	0	2	2	1	59	487	3	153	923	2902	0	
		13	18	283	100		5	1	26	7	2	32	1074		
15	7	178		2	4	1	7	11	33		16	65	829		
		440	3		1	1	1		98		113	108	797		
		240	1					17	79		28	213	580		
		30				22		3	15	1	32	60	2		
		51						42		6	8	356			
18	84	111			1	2		8	28		22	96	802		
		29						6	6		13	40	61		
		46	1			3		10	9		38	244			
		50							9	1	45	18			
138	63	369	4	5	2	70	38	248	cw	69	198	953			
20	2	220	30	6	10	4	28	36		27	109	261			
212	6	158	1						38		79	209			
		28	5	1					21		19	192			
		24	2					1	6	2	46	187			
		239	17	2		1	38	73		40	352	552			
678	23	15	6				14	6			68	93			
62	67	76	268	41			18	35	7	52	104	293			
		23				15	6	10		4	58	171			
250		27		4			7	59		3	73	263			
6		46	10	2			17	138		10	194	333			
1412	270	2683	442	69	16	38	101	245	984	22	409	1977	8328	2	
		1	96				2				37	97			
66	8	108	2	16		7	2	35	49		27	126	387		
		72	50				6	12	8		2	106	345		
7	1	196	7		12		1	65	107		5	205	478		
		1	72	500	22			103	61			67	103		
135	1	133	13	23	1	3	1		172		16	124	355		
208	12	677	572	61	13	10	11	217	397	0	50	665	1765	0	
2551	794	6085	7228	198	130	707	3662	709	2769	26	907	5761	19639	1514	

Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2008–2009

Species	Counts
Gr. White-fronted Goose	Shenandoah (cw)
Ross's Goose	Sioux City (2), De Soto NWR (1), Saylorville (9)
Tundra Swan	Andalusia (1), Keokuk (1)
swan sp.	Muscatine (1)
Gadwall	Keokuk (22), Red Rock (1), Rathbun (6)
Cinnamon Teal	Sioux City (1)
Northern Shoveler	Dallas County (1), Rathbun (1)
Redhead	Davenport (1), Keokuk (14), Red Rock (3)
Greater Scaup	Keokuk (178)
Surf Scoter	Keokuk (1)
Long-tailed Duck	Clinton (1), Keokuk (4), Red Rock (1)
Bufflehead	Keokuk (45), Des Moines (1), Rathbun (2)
Red-breasted Merganser	Green Island (2), Rathbun (1)
Ruddy Duck	Keokuk (16)
duck sp.	DeSoto NWR (7), Red Rock (3)
Ruffed Grouse	Decorah (3)
Common Loon	Rathbun (1)
Pied-billed Grebe	Keokuk (2), Ames (1)
Turkey Vulture	Iowa City (1)
accipiter sp.	Iowa City (1)
Golden Eagle	Yellow River Forest (2), Green Island (1)
Peregrine Falcon	Burlington (1)
Prairie Falcon	DeSoto NWR (1), Cherokee (1), Lamoni (1)
Thayer's Gull	Keokuk (2)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Andalusia (1)
Glaucous Gull	Muscatine (1), Keokuk (4)
Barn Owl	Lost Nation (1)
owl sp.	Boone County (2)
shrike sp.	Cedar Rapids (1), Red Rock (1), Lamoni (1)
Black-billed Magpie	Westfield (2)
Tree Swallow	Iowa City (6), Rathbun (3)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Green Island (1), Keokuk (1), Lost Nation (1)
Brown Thrasher	Decorah (1)
American Pipit	Clinton (1)
Bohemian Waxwing	Ames (8)
Pine Warbler	Lost Nation (1)
Vesper Sparrow	Wapello County (1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Omaha (1), Boone County (12)
sparrow sp.	Neal Smith NWR (2)
Indigo Bunting	Keokuk (1)
Western Meadowlark	Rathbun (1), Lamoni (87)
Brewer's Blackbird	Spirit Lake (3), Red Rock (1)
blackbird sp.	Boone County (6)
White-winged Crossbill	Cedar Rapids (2), Red Rock (1)
crossbill sp.	Iowa City (1)

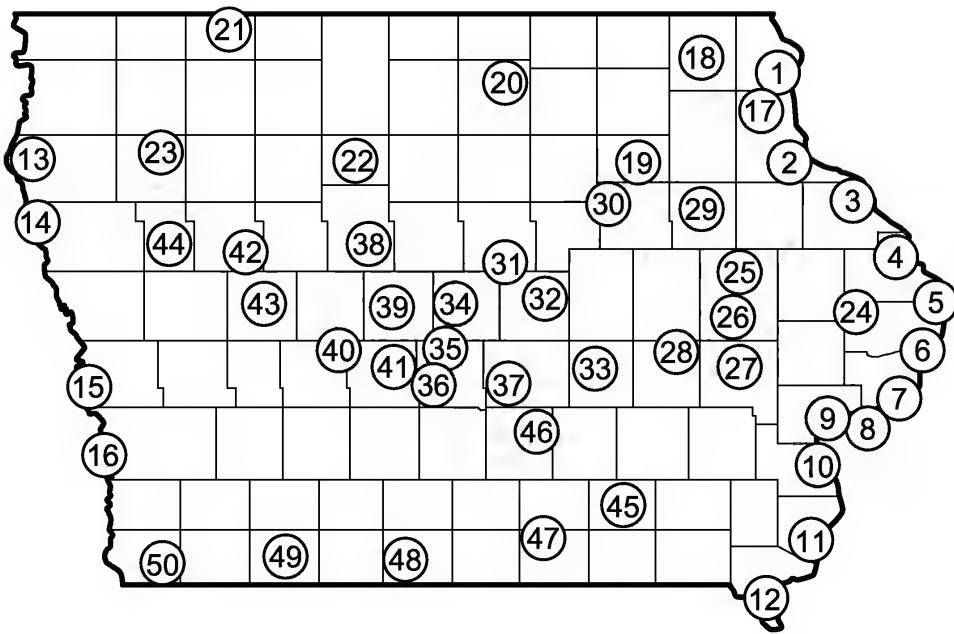


Figure 1. Christmas bird counts in Iowa, 2008–2009 (see Tables 1–3).

Paul Bartsch: Biography and Iowa Bird Records

Thomas H. Kent

Paul Bartsch (14 August 1871–24 April 1960) was the most active Iowa birder in the 1890s (Figure 1). I started my research on Bartsch over 25 years ago, but was inhibited by the feeling that there must be more information available. In 2008, thanks to the internet, I was able to get a copy of his “Record Book” for 1894 to 1896 and a list of his specimens at the Smithsonian Institution. These along with review of Bartsch’s specimens at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and published papers allow me to present a more complete account of his contribution to Iowa birding.

Of the many papers and obituaries about Bartsch, most of the following biographical information was gleaned from Mrs. H. J. Taylor (1942), Irston R. Barnes (1952, 1953, 1954), and Harold A. Rehder (1973).

BIOGRAPHY

Paul Bartsch was born in Tuntschendorf, Silesia, on the boundary of Bohemia. His mother was the third woman graduate in obstetrics at the University of Breslau. His father owned several businesses including a famous Inn. He provided Paul with pets, including birds, and a private education. In the depression of the 1880s, he lost his fortune on notes endorsed for friends. His mother’s savings were used to make a fresh start in the United States in 1882 when Paul was 11 years old. They settled for a year in a log cabin near Lutesville, Missouri, near where a friend was living. Another friend persuaded them to move to Burlington, Iowa and found Henry a job as a cabinetmaker (Figure 2).

Paul’s mother, Anna Bartsch, is listed as a midwife in Burlington directories until at least 1915 and lived to be 100. His father, Henry, lived to be 86. His younger sister, Anna, became a physician.

Paul learned to mount birds and prepare skins from an associate of his father. He constructed box traps for birds, which



Figure 1. Paul Bartsch [date unknown].
Photograph courtesy of Mary Bennett, State
Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City.

attracted the attention of the high school principal and led to his helping Paul learn English and prepare for high school admittance in 1889 (age 18). With the aid of several high school teachers, Bartsch furthered his education in natural history. He started a natural history club, a small museum, and a collection of bird skins said to number 2,000 by the time he entered college. He entered the University of Iowa in 1893 (age 22) with high recommendations. Under the influence of Professor Calvin he was guided into a broad curriculum in science rather than a concentration in ornithology as Bartsch had envisioned.

Professor McBride persuaded freshman Bartsch to prepare a report of fossil plants of Iowa, which became his first published paper. In addition to collecting birds on weekends, he identified the birds in a large collection in the attic of the science building and started a herbarium. In the summer of 1895, with several companions, he traveled by flatboat and canoe down the Oneota (Upper Iowa) River and down the Mississippi River to Burlington studying birds and collecting fossils (Bartsch 1897a). By agreement with his professors, Bartsch spent the fall of 1895 (1 August to 22 October) camped on an island at the mouth of the Skunk River studying the fall flora of that river (Bartsch 1901).

SMITHSONIAN CAREER

In early 1896, Bartsch was offered a position as assistant to William H. Dahl in the Department of Mollusks at the United States National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. He left the university in April of 1896, two months and one-half credit short of graduating in three years, but was granted his degree in June in anticipation of future work at the National Museum. After leaving Iowa he registered for a master's degree in zoology. His thesis was a bibliography of Iowa birds (see description below; Bartsch 1899a).

Bartsch continued his education at the University of Iowa by applying for his Ph.D. *in absentia*, an unprecedented move granted by the Board of Regents. He returned to Iowa City in 1905 to defend his thesis (on mollusks) and to submit to strenuous written and oral examinations.

Bartsch came to the U.S. National Museum of the Smithsonian in 1896 as an assistant to William H. Dahl, curator of mollusks, continuing from 1914 to 1946 as Dahl's successor, and retiring from the Smithsonian in 1956. Rehder (1973) provides an extensive summary of Bartsch's 50 years as a malacologist at the Smithsonian including his extensive travels. Bartsch published over 400 articles on mollusks (Ruhoff 1973). In later years, some of his minute taxonomic splitting fell under disregard (Weller 1955).

Bartsch was heavily involved in teaching. He was professor of zoology at George Washington University from 1899 to 1945, teaching courses and directing master's degree students who worked on mollusks at the Smithsonian. As professor at Howard University from 1901 to 1938 he taught medical students histology, physiology, and medical zoology.

Bartsch's wide range of interests was manifest by involvement with Boy Scouts, a botanical club, a microscopic society, and conservation along the Potomac River. His large botanical collection was donated to the Smithsonian (Seidenschnur and Shetler 1965). He was the first to band birds (other than Audubon's brief attempt). During World War I, he discovered that common slugs could be used to detect mustard gas at very low concentrations. He was a pioneer in underwater photography. Bartsch was well known in the

Washington, D.C. area for his civic-minded activities and interest in all types of plants and animals (Seidenschnur and Shetler 1965).

Bartsch's first marriage to the beautiful Signe Gjurdrum in 1902 produced one son and ended in well-publicized divorce in 1932 (Anon. 1929). In 1939, he married former student Dr. Elizabeth Parker. In 1942, they purchased "Lebanon," an estate on the Potomac River above Mt. Vernon, where they spent retirement years restoring the mansion and creating a wildlife sanctuary.

Paul Bartsch was a dedicated scientist who was involved with many people and many activities. One incident may give some insight into his personality. Homer Dill, director of the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, on 24 December 1935 wrote to Waldo Schmitt, Curator of Marine Invertebrates at the U.S. National Museum, "Dr. Bartsch was in town yesterday...I got the impression from what he said yesterday that you and Dr. Wetmore [Director of the Museum] are under him." Schmitt replied in part, "We have always believed that when Dr. Bartsch is away from the Museum he acts like God almighty out for a walk...."

SPECIMEN AND LITERATURE RECORDS

Bartsch's intense lifetime activity began in Iowa with the study of birds. It is fortunate that he labeled his specimens and sight records with date and place. I compiled Bartsch's bird data from four sources and included data from Iowa and Henderson County, Illinois (across from Burlington).

1. **Specimens at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History** (322 Iowa, 42 Illinois). These were entered into the accession log, most in one batch in Bartsch's handwriting, and almost all nonpasserines. Search of a recent computer index to the collection does not include many of Bartsch's original entries.
2. **Specimens at U.S. National Museum** (140 Iowa, 97 Illinois). Recent efforts to catalogue specimens on-line revealed to me Bartsch's specimens at the Smithsonian. The Iowa and Illinois (Henderson County) birds are almost all passernines and appear to have also been entered in batches, but several years later than the University of Iowa specimens.
3. **Records in Bartsch's "Record Book 1894-1896"** (372 Iowa, 4 Illinois). This original notebook was found by internet search at George Washington University. I prepared a typescript from digital photographs of the pages that I was able to obtain. Of the 149 species, a few may have been only from Washington, D.C. This is the only Bartsch birding notebook that I have located. Entries are mostly early and late dates for sightings during his three years in college at Iowa City with trips to Burlington and Washington, D.C.
4. **Records in literature** (224 birds of 113 species, all Iowa). Most of these records are from Bartsch's 1895 survey in northeastern Iowa (Bartsch 1897a). Others are from compilations in *The Iowa Ornithologist* (Anon. 1895a, Crone 1896), and short notes (see below).

IOWA/ILLINOIS DATABASE

I put all these Iowa/Illinois bird records in one database sorted by date. There are three



Figure 2. Bartsch residence at 1212 Madison Ave, Burlington, Iowa. Photograph courtesy of Mary Bennett, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City.

specimens each from 1888 and 1899 taken at Burlington. During the four years before he started college (1890 to August 1893), there are 24, 24, 70, and 67 specimens respectively from the Burlington area. During his college years (September 1893 to mid-April 1896) his collecting activities were divided between Iowa City and Burlington. It appears from the specimens and birding records that he often returned to Burlington on weekends and holidays. There are many records from his 1895 surveys in northeastern Iowa and his Skunk River encampment. He returned to Iowa to fill in his collections of passerines from 22 August–26 September 1898, 16 July–27 August 1901, 1 January 1922, and 22–24 September 1934. There are scattered specimens in the Bartsch collection from across United States and Canada and many from Europe collected by Carl Mouer. There are a number of birds accessioned into the catalogue at the University of Iowa that are no longer present. These findings suggest that Bartsch actively traded to enhance his collection.

RARE BIRD SPECIES

A number of rare birds seen by Bartsch are reported in the literature. He captured two Northern Saw-whet Owls at Iowa City on 16 and 26 October 1894 (Bartsch 1895). He found Bewick's Wren absent to quite abundant at Burlington (Bartsch 1897b); his 10 April 1893 specimen was the first for the state (Nutting 1895). Iowa's first Ruddy Turn-

stones were seen at Burlington on 21 May 1892 and collected across the river (Bartsch 1898). Bartsch collected Iowa's first Sabine's Gulls on a sandbar above Burlington on 15 October 1891 and 12 October 1894 (Bartsch 1899b). Bartsch photographed a mounted specimen of a Magnificent Frigatebird said to have been captured in Iowa in August 1903 (Bartsch 1922, Briggs 1969).

Several of Bartsch's rare sightings were reported by others. An Eskimo Curlew skin taken on 5 April 1893 is now at the University of Michigan (Kent 2008). A loon taken about 1895 and listed as Arctic [Pacific] Loon (Nutting 1895) was a Red-throated Loon shot in Illinois (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). A Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw) taken at Burlington on 29 November 1892 was a first state record (Nutting 1895). A Hooded Warbler was collected on 25 May 1892 (Anon. 1895b). A Barn Owl was taken at Burlington on 22 November 1895 (Anon. 1896). A photograph of a Short-eared Owl taken at Iowa City in 1896 is likely the first bird photograph taken in Iowa and one of the earliest anywhere (Figure 3).

MASTER'S DEGREE THESIS

Bartsch's most massive contribution to Iowa ornithology was his Master's thesis (1899a), "The Literature of Iowa Birds A Complete Record of the Published Writings on the Birds of Iowa. Consisting First, of a list of the Species with the references to each Chronologically arranged under it: Second, a Bibliography citing the papers published annually from the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804) to the present (1899)." By "published annually" he meant, "in order by year published." The title tells it all—there is no introduction or discussion; specimens and unpublished records (e.g., his Eskimo Curlew) are not included and there is no evaluation of the birds in the various references. Bartsch had access to the literature in Iowa City and Washington D.C., but he still missed a few publications. In the 1980s, I found the thesis on the open shelves of the Zoology Library at the University of Iowa and later in Special Collections at the main library.

Access to Bartsch's thesis was limited and no bird list was published. Rudolph Anderson (1907) found Bartsch's work useful in locating references for his much more definitive Ph.D. thesis, "The Birds of Iowa." In 1897, David L. Savage chaired a committee of the Iowa Ornithological Association to develop an annotated list of Iowa birds and Bartsch was on



Figure 3. Short-eared Owl, Iowa City, 1896, by Paul Bartsch. First Iowa bird photograph. Photograph provided by Shirley Briggs, Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.

that committee. In a letter to the members of the I.O.A. dated 29 August 1897 (courtesy Alfred D. Savage) and before the third congress of the association, Bartsch indicated that he expected to finish his bibliographic card catalogue by the end of the year and have it in book form by the end of the century. Although he did finish his bibliography, it was neither published nor annotated. With his busy schedule, obtaining a master's degree may have been of primary importance.

SUMMARY

Paul Bartsch was a hard-driving, well-educated, self-motivated person with a broad range of interests. He was a very active birder in Iowa, even while completing the usual four years of college in two and an half years of attendance. His bird specimens left a fingerprint of his activities, but I still hope that more of his written notes relating to Iowa will be found.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people helped me in my study of Paul Bartsch. Dr. Alfred D. Savage brought me many items on Bartsch, searched for Burlington connections, and challenged some of my interpretations. James X. Corgan, a geologist from Austin Peay University, shared his interest in Bartsch and provided reprints and clippings. Shirley Briggs of the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, formerly of Iowa City, provided photographs and other information. Mary Bennett of the State Historical Society of Iowa provided photographs. George Schrimper and Cindy Opitz provided access to correspondence and specimens at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History. The Smithsonian Institution and George Washington University provided access to a list of specimens and to Bartsch's record book.

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Hoary Redpoll in Mason City

Carolyn Fischer

While away on a trip for six weeks, I often checked the Iowa Bird Listserv. I noticed numerous reports of Common Redpolls in Iowa during the month of January. I returned home on 30 January. On the morning of 31 January 2009, I was checking my finch feeders from my living room window, and I noticed 14 Common Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*) at several of the feeders (Figure 1). One redpoll stood out as it was noticeably larger than the other redpolls. Using my scope with a zoom lens, I was able to obtain distinguishing critical field marks for identification of a male Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemannii*).

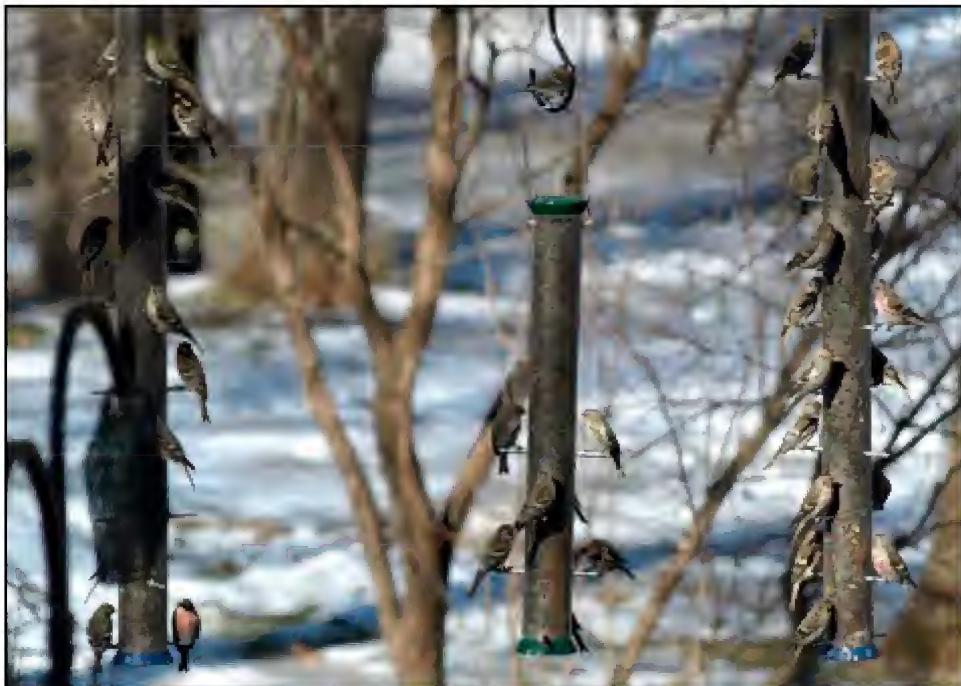


Figure 1. Common Redpolls on feeders in Carolyn Fischer's yard, Mason City, 31 January 2009. Photograph by Carolyn Fischer, Mason City, IA.

The Hoary Redpoll was lighter overall; its wings were drooped while it fed giving me a excellent view of the whitish rump without any noticeable streaking. The breast had a rosy wash, broad white edges to the scapulars toward the rear. The greater coverts were wide and white, the upper back was light, the undertail coverts had an absence of any streaking. The flanks had very faint streaking. The face was pale with a yellow bill, black eye, and a black area around the bill and throat. It had a red cap and black feet. The neck appeared thicker than the Common Redpolls. The Hoary Redpoll foraged on the ground more than at the feeder, and favored one particular area.

My redpoll population grew from 14 birds to 145 at the peak. At times, the birds fell to the feeders like leaves falling from the trees. They were easily spooked, and spent much of their energy flying to find cover. A Cooper's Hawk made several appearances daily adding to their stress.

Rita Goranson and Paul Hertzel were able to view the Hoary Redpoll for a short time on 15 February. I did not see the bird again after 15 February 2009. I have encountered Common Redpoll irruptive migrations during several winters in Mason City. The redpoll invasion of 2009 was memorable.

Two Summer Records of California Gulls in Iowa

Stephen J. Dinsmore

Here, I report on two recent records of California Gulls in Iowa in June and August. The first was an adult seen 20 June 2007 associating with a Ring-billed Gull nesting colony at Meinking Marsh in Dickinson County. The second was also an adult and was seen and photographed on 2 August 2008 at Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County by myself and Joe Fontaine. Neither bird was relocated after the initial sighting. Both birds were classic adult California Gulls in alternate plumage and were associating with Ring-billed Gulls for close comparisons. Key identification features compared to an adult Ring-billed Gull included the larger size (estimated at 20% larger), bright yellow bill with a subterminal black spot and lacking an obvious “ring,” dark eye, darker gray mantle and upperwings, and yellow or yellow-green legs. Both sightings are of interest because of the unusual dates of occurrence. The June bird is the first for Iowa in summer, and the August bird was probably an early fall migrant and departs from the normal period of fall occurrence in September to December. Both records also suggest that birders should be aware of this species as a possible vagrant to Iowa during the summer months.

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Black Vulture in Polk County

Ann M. Johnson

My commute between office and home provides numerous alternatives and variety. On 24 February 2009, I serendipitously made a good choice and headed toward downtown Des Moines on Second Avenue. It had been one of those afternoons where there was a hint of spring in the air with multiple Bald Eagles circling over my office (conveniently located along the Des Moines River) suggestive of the upcoming massive spring movement north.

About a block from the Second Avenue Bridge over the Des Moines River, I was alternating between watching traffic and the myriad of birds flying in the area. In addition to

geese and eagles, there were numbers of crows. Two crows caught my eye as they harassed a larger black bird that was not big enough to be an eagle. My first thought was that it must be a dark-phase hawk of some sort, probably a red-tailed. As I got closer, the behavior of the larger bird bothered me because it was more of an effort-laden flopping reminiscent of a Black Vulture taking flight and not just a raptor leaving the area as most red-taileds are wont to do when harassed. The tail also looked short for a red-tailed. Risking rush hour road rage and slowing to a crawl, I inched closer to the scene and I could see the bird had a much smaller head. As I got about even with the birds, I could see the larger one well from the underside. It was all black, had an unfeathered dark gray head, a short tail, and white patches in the wings consistent with the white primary pattern of Black Vulture. Because my observation was so short and traffic precluded stopping, I did not see the bird actually fly any distance. As quickly as possible I swung back around to the location. The birds were no longer there and I then drove through Birdland Park and other areas close to the river in hopes of relocating the bird. However, everything was moving around, so I did not get any further observations.

While Black Vulture is still accidental in Iowa, recent records show a pattern of more birds moving north on occasion. Although it is still also accidental in northern Missouri, this species regularly winters just to the south of St. Louis and through the Lake of the Ozarks area. Until 2002, there had been only two accepted records in Iowa, both in the first half of the Twentieth Century. This bird is the sixth record since 2002. With the slow range expansion that appears to be happening, birders should be alert for more of these wanderers to appear in our state.

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Birding South Twin Lake in Calhoun County

Shane Patterson

Within the open landscape of Iowa's Prairie Pothole Region, South Twin Lake (Figure 1) serves as a magnet for waterfowl and other migratory birds. In fact, due to significant duck and goose numbers documented here in recent years, this glacial lake (and its associated marshes and woods) was recently added to the state's list of Important Bird Areas. Diverse gatherings of birds are almost always found on the water here during spring and fall,

and the peak seasonal concentrations of various ducks can be quite impressive at times. South Twin also provides refuge to land-bird migrants along its periphery, giving birders a variety of options during a visit.

WATERFOWL VIEWING

There are multiple lakeside access points off of **Twin Lakes Road** (Figure 1.1), which itself follows closely along much of the lake's perimeter. Along the wooded northeastern shore (just across from Twin Lakes Golf Course), roadside pull-offs enable views of the marshy portion of the lake. Many geese, including Greater White-fronted, Ross's, Snow, and Cackling, often congregate along the cattails throughout this section in both spring and fall. Most of the expected dabbling ducks are usually found here as well, making this a prime spot to look for Cinnamon Teal among the many Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers. However, even if there aren't any rarities to be found on a given day, taking some time to tally and observe the interesting behaviors of the assorted waterbirds here definitely makes the stop worthwhile.

At the south end of the lake, **small boat ramps and clearings** (Figures 1.2 and 1.3) enable visitors to scan the lake in its entirety, and to discover any birds that were blocked by vegetation during initial searches. Although each spot is worth at least a quick check, the westernmost of these southern accesses is typically the best place to commence searches for diving ducks, loons, and grebes out on the broader portion of the lake. Although Pied-billed Grebe and Horned Grebe are most likely to be seen, all six of Iowa's grebe species have been recorded at South Twin. With more consistent searching, the rarer loons may be added to the site list as well. Sea ducks like Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoters, and Long-tailed Duck are probably annual visitors here. Patiently searching through large rafts of divers in the fall is one key to finding scoters and long-taileds, although you can readily find them individually or in monospecific groups, too.

The south side of the lake is also the foremost place to observe gulls that are either in flight or resting on the lake itself. During many of my fall visits to South Twin, most of the gulls are absent mid-day but gradually return to the water during the evening. Franklin's Gull, one of the signature species of prairie-lakes landscapes, visits South Twin in migration and gathers in substantial numbers in late September and early October. Iowa has an impressive list of gull species overall, and sorting through flocks of the more widespread species (e.g., Ring-billed Gull) increases your chances of finding a more unusual visitor.

In fall, it is also useful to scope agricultural fields off the south end of the lake, as they frequently have foraging/resting flocks of geese. This provides a means of watching these birds without the disruptive heat shimmer seen over bodies of water under certain conditions.

Heading around the west side of the lake, you'll eventually come to a **wide gravel pull-off at the north end** (Figure 1.4). This overlook—situated next to a steep, cliff-like segment of shoreline—is a great place to investigate the northern half of South Twin during the afternoon and evening. With the sun at your back, you can serenely scan all of the aforementioned marshy habitats that extend to the opposite shore. Checking the vicinity of these marshes is also the best way to detect herons, night-herons, egrets, bitterns, and other shallow-water denizens. Shorebirds also frequent this area when there are at least a few mudflats exposed along the edges.

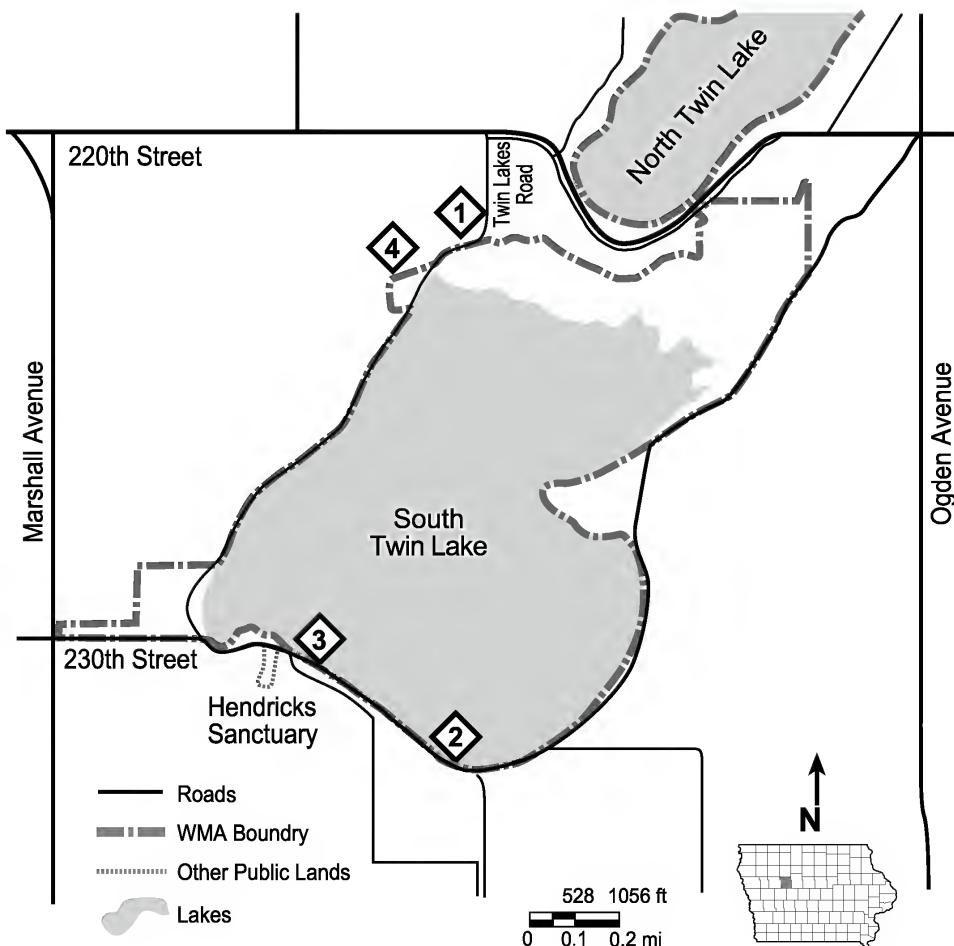


Figure 1. Birding South Twin Lake in Calhoun County: (1) Twin Lakes Road, (2 and 3) boat ramps and clearings, (4) gravel pull-off.

SONGBIRD MIGRATION

The narrow belt of trees and shrubs around South Twin's shoreline attracts woodland/edge migrants in season. Walking or slowing driving along Twin Lakes Road can sometimes produce a surprising list of Neotropical songbirds, particularly under fallout conditions (i.e., the arrival of cold fronts in the fall and strong storm systems in the spring). Kinglets, thrushes, warblers, etc. are relatively easy to pick out as you move through this restricted habitat, which is a one-of-a-kind sanctuary for miles in each direction. Of course, when scoping the lake for waterfowl, it isn't unusual to become pleasantly sidetracked by the songbird activities happening around you.

These lightly wooded and brushy habitats regularly hold Emberizids (native sparrows), too. I usually pause for a few minutes to monitor the roadside songbird activities

before setting up my scope for waterfowl viewing. Although the northeastern shoreline is the most productive in this regard, opportunities for native-sparrow observations exist all the way around the lake.

Back at the northwest corner, a small wildlife area (just across from the overlook) provides another concentrated habitat for migrant songbirds. When conditions are right, this is a great location to obtain direct, eye-level looks at Harris's, White-crowned, Fox, Swamp, Song, Lincoln's, and American Tree Sparrows, especially in October. The adjacent crop fields offer a handy opportunity to scan for open-country species like Horned Lark, American Pipit, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, and perhaps Smith's Longspur during migration.

Back across the road at the north end of the lake, the marshes and woods teem with vociferous assemblages of blackbirds, which routinely number in the thousands. Such flocks usually have a few Rusty Blackbirds in their midst in March, April, and October. Brewer's Blackbirds, which are much less likely to join the big mixed-species congregations, have been noted in the vicinity of the overlook, and probably take advantage of the nearby plowed fields and feedlots. For sure, birding along the edge of the road can allow you to see many species with minimal effort. Furthermore, since this little viewing location is right next to the overlook, you can bolster your day list without adding many miles to your trip.

RAPTORS

Many of Iowa's raptor species make appearances at South Twin during migration. Northern Harriers are customarily seen coursing over nearby fields and prairie patches. Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Cooper's Hawk, and Sharp-shinned Hawk are occasionally spotted in flight near the lake or perched in trees along it. Additionally, the South Twin vicinity can produce all of the various western Red-tailed Hawk types (dark-morph, rufous-morph, Krider's, Harlan's, etc.) that venture into the state.

NOTE

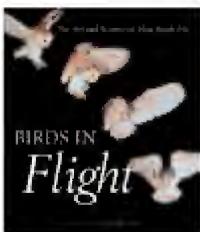
Goose and duck hunters frequent South Twin Lake, and pheasant hunters sometimes explore the adjoining fields. Therefore, like at many wildlife areas in Iowa, wearing at least some blaze-orange clothing during the corresponding hunting seasons is advisable. But again, much of the birding here is easily accomplished from the roadside, and there's plenty of room for everyone to accomplish their outdoor hobbies.)

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Book Review: *Birds in Flight*

Paul Skrade

Henderson, Carroll L. *Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly*. Voyageur Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota. 160 pp. \$25.00



At first glance *Birds in Flight* might appear to be your usual “Coffee Table” book: large, hard-bound, with vivid photographs filling entire pages but probably lacking any substantive content. However, the author’s background as an Air Force officer, a wildlife photographer, and the head of Minnesota DNR’s Nongame Wildlife Program for more than thirty years has given him unique insight into the flight of birds. Henderson incorporated his knowledge of birds and aviation with photographs taken while leading birding tours around the world and presented avian flight in a form that is both educational and visually appealing.

Birds in Flight opens with a dedication to Dr. Harrison B. “Bud” Tordoff, who was a leader in the Midwestern Peregrine Falcon restoration, and then follows with a foreword by author and naturalist Scott Weidensaul and an introduction by the author. The book has three sections that are further divided into eight chapters. The first section, Art of Birds in Flight, is a gallery of photographs from several different taxa. Henderson begins with the poem “Wandering Albatross” by Neruda, framed by several images of soaring albatrosses. Throughout the book, but particularly in this chapter, the author reminisces about the experiences he had while taking these photographs, and how something that seems so simple to a bird is really quite incredible.

The second section, Avian Aerodynamics, starts with a chapter on the principles of aerodynamics. In addition to using photographs to depict the descriptions in the text, Henderson also supplies numerous diagrams so that the reader can better comprehend ideas like Bernoulli’s principle and the angle of attack. These clearly arranged figures are extremely helpful in understanding the movement of air over the surface of a wing and how this influences flight. Other chapters in this section describe feathers and bones, wings, and tails, and contain tidbits like how the forked tail of a Common Tern can be spread to allow quick turning, or tucked back to reduce drag on a long-distance migration.

The chapters in On the Wing, the final section, deal with taking flight, types of flight, and ultimately the art of landing. Henderson refers to five different ways that birds take flight, such as how a Great Blue Heron or Red-tailed Hawk jump upward while powerfully thrusting their wings downward. The American White Pelican is used as an example throughout the book and is clearly one of the species that inspired the author. In this final section he describes them as one of the most graceful and magnificent of all flying birds, reminding the reader that birds actually use many different types of flight and often combine several techniques.

The photographs included throughout this publication contain pictures of species

from around the globe, like the Sacred Ibis and the Brazilian Ruby. However, nearly half of the images are of species found in the Midwest, which will help to remind the Iowa birder of the information throughout the book. When the reader next sees a Canada Goose settling into a pond or field they will stop to see if they can pick out the alula as the bird attempts to prevent itself from stalling.

I have only one major criticism of *Birds in Flight*. In the chapter on aerodynamics the author makes two fairly common mistakes in calculating a bird's aspect ratio and wing loading. The former is simply the ratio of a wing's length to its width, and the latter is calculated by dividing a bird's mass by the total surface area of its wings. The author uses a different method to calculate aspect ratio and has the formula for wing loading reversed, although he has it correct when he first describes it in the text. Both of these provide information about the type of flight a bird exhibits, such as how the high aspect ratio of a pelican's wing allows it to spend much of its time soaring and how birds with high wing loading, such as loons, require a large runway and vigorous flapping to take off.

Henderson, who grew up near Zearing, Iowa, has put together an informative, attractive, and interesting book that is appropriate for both birders and nonbirders alike. He is the author of several other books and articles related to birds and birding, including one about the discovery of a large egg collection in Iowa. Overall, *Birds in Flight* is an excellent addition to anyone's coffee table collection.

(An interesting aside: I am not sure if Henderson was aware of this, but the sequence of Barn Owl photographs on the front of the dust jacket is the same as that used by Frank Gill on the cover of the latest edition of his ornithology text book.)

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Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

An article on blackbirds roosting in Ames by John Bliese leads off the June 1959 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. Roosting Common Grackles, European Starlings, and several other species have long been considered a pest in Ames and other Iowa towns. Various attempts to disperse these roosts achieved only moderate and local success during this study.

In another article, longtime IOU member James Hodges compares seven lists of Scott County birds compiled by four individuals from 1900–1925. A total of 206 species were found, but I suspect that a recent list would total about 300 species. Species listed as

resident include Greater Prairie-Chicken, Short-eared Owl, and Long-eared Owl, none of which are known to nest in the area presently.

Gleanings from the minutes of the spring IOU meeting at Keokuk included the following: local boy scouts were used as guides on the field trips, an attempt to open a Mourning Dove season was defeated in the Iowa Legislature, and a speaker from The Nature Conservancy praised Iowans for their efforts in preserving prairies, specifically mentioning Kalsow, Cayler, and Hayden prairies.

One of the short notes mentioned the lack of collected nests or eggs of the Clay-colored Sparrow from Iowa. Clay-colored Sparrow broods have been found in Iowa in most years.

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Business Meeting

2 May 2009

The IOU spring business meeting was held at Swan Lake State Park, Carroll County Conservation Center. President John Rutenbeck called the meeting to order at 3:40 P.M. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Paul Roisen, vice president; Doug Hunt, treasurer; Cathy Konrad, secretary; board members John Bissell, Jim Fuller, Ken Lowder, Bill Scheible, Tom Schilke; and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: Cathy Konrad reported that minutes from the fall 2008 business meeting were published in *IBL* 78(4):198–200.

Treasurer's Report: Doug Hunt reported that total current assets are \$71,962.70. Doug also reported that IOU is close to being on budget for the year.

Membership: Ann Johnson reported for Pam Allen that membership is ahead of last year. Currently, there are 376 regular and 28 institutional memberships. Pam will be sending reminder letters to current members who have not renewed. Ann presented a summary of new memberships by year joined: 2003–52; 2004–39; 2005–49; 2006–53; 2007–57; 2008–42; 2009–26 (as of May).

Records and Publications Committees: Ann Johnson reported for both committees. Records are on track for the year. Aaron Brees' six-year term has ended; Chris Edwards has replaced Aaron. Publications: *Iowa Bird Life* continues to go well. The web site has changed provider. One member regretted the loss of picture files; however, at this point the site is secure. Ann is continuing to solve minor problems and investigating future improvements. The position of editor of the *IOU News* is open. Paul Hertzel generously stepped up to organize the last *IOU News* and will help with one more; however, this is temporary. Software is available. Jim Dinsmore will take applications. Mark Proescholdt brought to the attention of the membership that Ann Johnson recently created a laminated trifold about dragonflies and damsel flies that is commercially available.

Membership Committee: Doug Hunt reported for Karen Disbrow that a newly designed shirt is for sale. This is the last meeting that the Edsons will tend the IOU "store" during fall and spring meetings. The membership thanked Barb and Clyde Edson for their work. At the last IOU budget meeting, the board and officers approved a membership recommendation to offer a free one year IOU membership to one person from each Iowa bird club (new member only) as an incentive to build membership.

Projects Committee: Chris Caster reported on the allocation of the \$3,000 projects budget. \$1,250 was awarded to the Mitchell County Conservation Board for a farm-land purchase near the Wapsi River; \$1,000 to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for a purchase of a 168-acre parcel in Story County composed of remnant prairie and adjacent to other protected property; \$750 to Hitchcock Hawk Watch. Committee will keep November 1 as the deadline for applications. Mary Beth Hunt will receive applications. Chris Caster's term is up 1 June and Matt Wetrich will replace Chris on the Projects Committee.

Library/Historical Committee: Hank Zaletel reported Sue Spieker's first term is up but will be asked to continue. Hank continues to place on the listserv all newspaper items related to IOU. Tom Kent gave Hank a collection of e-mails related to IOU. Hank will forward these to the ISU archivist. Hank reported that he is in the process of writing a series of IOU founder articles.

Travel/Trip Committee: Mike Johnston reported that nine members have signed up for the October 3–13 trip to Monterey, California. There is still room for a few more people.

NEW BUSINESS

Myrtle Burk Award: Award winners are Chelsea Berns and Amber Wiewel, Iowa State University and James Mason, University of Northern Iowa. As previously discussed at the 6 December 2008 IOU budget meeting, IOU will award a one-year membership to these award winners, and recipients will be invited to submit an article about their ornithology work and present a summary at an annual IOU membership meeting.

Fall Meeting: The meeting has been scheduled for Centerville, Iowa October 9–11. (See board meeting minutes for discussion of conflict with IOU Monterey, CA trip.)

Silent Auction: Bob Cecil is holding a silent auction for birding books with proceeds to benefit IOU publications. This auction will be open until after the banquet.

Photograph Sharing Site: Hank Zaletel suggested using an online photograph sharing site such as Flickr for a gallery of IOU people and events. Hank would be willing to manage this project. Ann Johnson suggested she and Hank discuss the possibility of coordinating the needs of both the IOU web site and photo sharing.

Gladys Black Book Project: Larry Stone reported on status of book being co-authored by Jon Stravers. IOU has helped support this project. The authors are still looking for photographs and letters.

Nominating Committee: Mark Proescholdt thanked John Rutenbeck, Jim Fuller, and Paul Roisen for their excellent work for IOU. Mark presented the slate of candidates: president: Stephen J. Dinsmore; vice president: Aaron Brees; board of directors: Paul Roisen and Bill Scheible. No additional nominations from the floor for president or vice president so these candidates were elected. For board, John Bissell nominated Jay Gilliam. Nomination seconded and carried. A secret ballot was held and Paul Roisen and Bill Scheible were elected to board.

IOU Members: Paul Roisen announced long-term members of 50 years or more: Wes Bartlett, Ralph Heuer, Herbert Hodges, Dennis Carter, Bob Nickolson, Tom Kent, Dorothy Toyne, Fred Lesher, Jean Bradley, Dean Roosa, Madeline Carpenter, Elanore Fullerton, and Joseph Kennedy.

First time attendees were welcomed, introduced, and presented a copy of *Birds in Iowa* by Kent and Dinsmore.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Konrad, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting

2 May 2009

The IOU spring board meeting was held at the Carroll County Conservation Education Center. President John Rutenbeck called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. In attendance were John Rutenbeck, president; Stephen J. Dinsmore president-elect; Paul Roisen, vice-president; Cathy Konrad, secretary; Doug Hunt, treasurer; board members John Bis-

sell, Jim Fuller, Ken Lowder, Bill Scheible, and Tom Schilke; committee chairpersons Chris Caster, Ann Johnson, Mike Johnston, Hank Zaletel.

Secretary's Report: Cathy Konrad reported the minutes of the 2008 board meeting were published in *IBL* 78(4):200–201. Minutes of the budget meeting were published in *IBL* 79(1):67–71. Doug reported an error in transfer from “General Operation Fund Savings” p. 68, line 18. Amount should read \$4,534, not \$3,534, to balance the budget.

Treasurer's Report: Doug Hunt reported that net income for 2008 was \$11,428. This amount was due to special memorial donations and bird trip profit. Doug presented the completed 2008 990 IRS form and the board directed Doug to sign and submit it. A copy will be sent to Hank Zaletel to archive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trips: The fall trip to California will be led by Ann Johnson. It will feature two pelagic trips on the Pacific. However, the fall meeting and IOU California trip dates are currently in conflict. Both trip and fall meeting organizers will work to resolve this conflict that involves the speaker for the fall meeting, Jon Dunn, and meeting site availability.

Projects: Matt Wetrich was proposed for membership on this committee for a term ending in 2013. Moved by Tom Schilke and seconded by Bill Scheible. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Photography Contest: The contest was organized by Tom Lawson and judged by Steve Dinsmore, Jim Moreland, and John Wenck. Scott Garrett was awarded the first place winning entry. Thanks to Paul Roisen for suggesting a continuation of this important project.

Myrtle Burk Award Winners: IOU will send a letter of congratulations to winners, along with a free one-year membership to IOU. Recipients will be invited to submit an article about their ornithology work to *IOU News* or *IBL* and present a summary at an annual IOU membership meeting. Ann Johnson proposed that Pam Allen create a letter offering this award and will provide Pam with names and addresses of winners.

Digitization of Education Booklet: Hank Zaletel reported this work has been completed and two prototype CD's made. Ann Johnson is looking into how this information might be incorporated into the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

IOU News: The open editor position was discussed along with the name of a member who might be interested in becoming the new editor. Publications Committee member Jim Dinsmore will review any applications and the committee as a whole will approve any applicants.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Konrad, secretary

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Institutional \$30, Foreign \$35, Goldfinch \$30, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer (see inside front cover). Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports to editor at Kay@KayNiyo.com. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue** (Vol. xx[1]), **April 1 for spring issue** [2], **July 1 for summer issue** [3], **October 1 for fall issue** [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

IOU NEWS: Paul Hertzel, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com)

IOU WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (jabissell@mchsi.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 4 South Ridge Ct., Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@earthlink.net).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Fall 2009: 16–18 October 2009, Centerville

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Two male White-winged Crossbills, Hampton, *Franklin*, 23 February 2009. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Snowy Owl, Owego Wetland Area south of Sioux City, *Woodbury*, 9 February 2009. Photograph by James Moreland, Boone, IA.

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